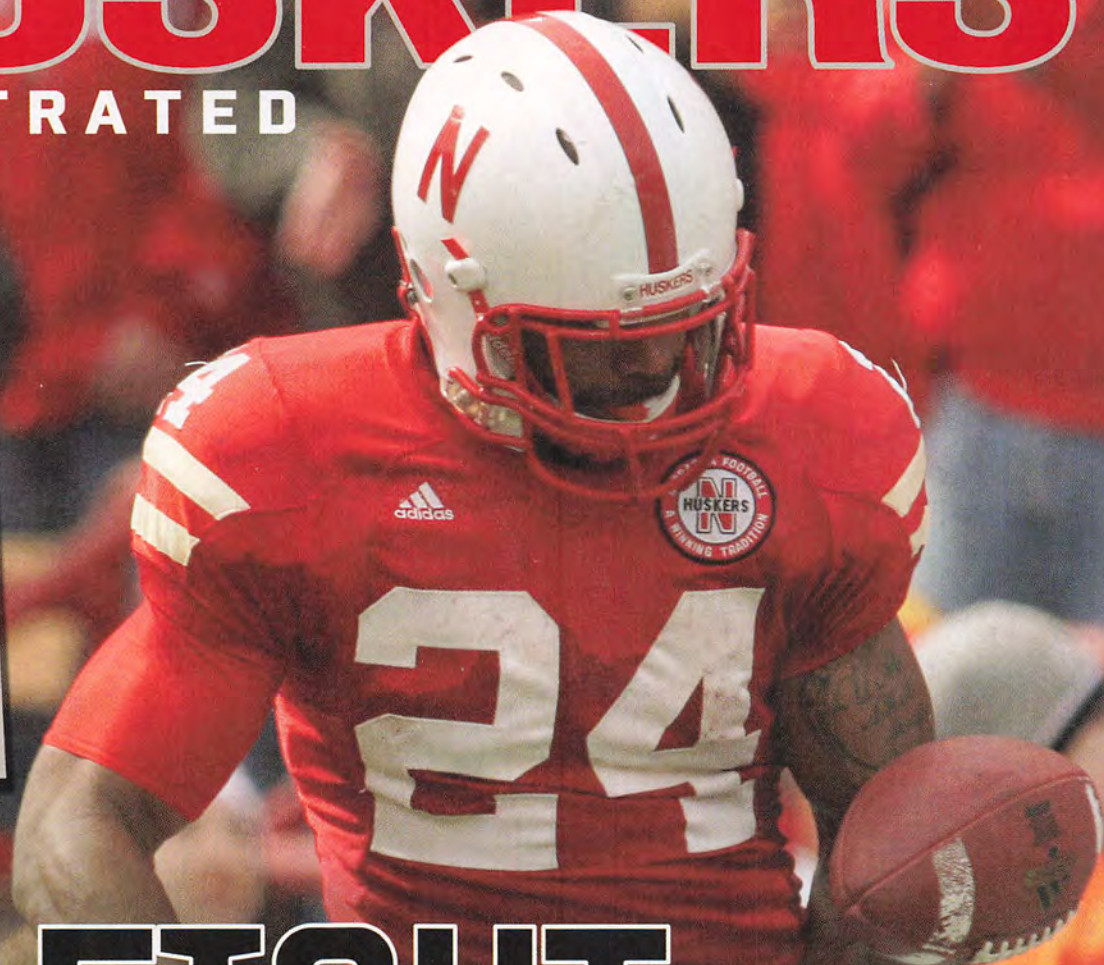


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OCTOBER 31, 2009 • VOLUME 29 • NO. 14

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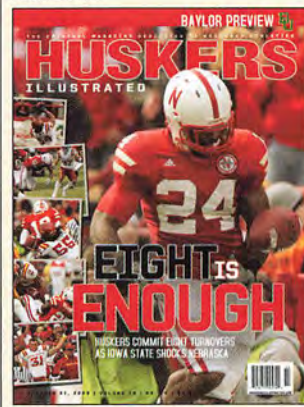
Volume 29, Issue 15 recapping the Iowa State game will be mailed on Monday, Nov. 2. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

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ON THE COVER

Niles Paul fumbles near the goal line after hauling in a 72-yard pass in the second quarter for one of Nebraska's eight turnovers. The cover also represents five of Nebraska's other turnovers. Photo by Aaron Babcock. Inset photos by Aaron Babcock and Scott Bruhn.



FUMBLING AWAY

Can offense
recover to save the
season?



JUST WHEN YOU were thinking Nebraska's offense couldn't get any worse, it might have hit rock bottom Saturday.

The Huskers, and the fans for that matter, are still rubbing their eyes trying to comprehend a stat line that revealed seven fumbles, five lost, and three interceptions.

That's eight turnovers and a 9-7 loss.

Who turns the ball over eight times? The Huskers somehow managed more turnovers than points.

You probably told yourself Saturday that you've never seen a team turn it over eight times. I know I said it, more than once.

And you're probably right... unless you were around to see Nebraska cough it up eight times in 1967 (vs. Colorado) or 1972 (at Iowa State). But Nebraska has never finished minus eight in the turnover category.

As if that wasn't painful enough, four of the eight turnovers came inside Iowa State's 5-yard line.

To put it in perspective, Nebraska had 13 drives in the game. One ended with a touchdown, eight ended on

turnovers and the other four with a punt. Of Nebraska's drives six second-half drives, five ended on turnovers, the other ended on a punt.

Nebraska is over half way done with its season (seven down, five to go). Was it only two weeks ago Nebraska was ranked and dreaming of playing in the Big 12 title game?

It seems like a lifetime ago.

Instead Husker fans are steaming and squirming and second-guessing. They are wondering if the Huskers can become bowl eligible.

The answer is yes, but only if this team continues to fight.

I'm sure Bo would bristle at the idea of his team not fighting. The defense has been phenomenal, so there isn't an immediate concern with the Blackshirts. But this offense has no identity, no leadership and no go-to player. Somebody must step up and take charge.

What if nobody steps up?

Then Saturday might not have been rock bottom. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.

EDITOR,
GENERAL MANAGER
Aaron Babcock

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Mike Babcock

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Mike Babcock, Terry Douglass, John Talman,
Sean Callahan, Curt McKeever, Steve Sipple,
Brian Rosenthal, Randy York, Bob Hamar,
Rick Shaw, Sean Stevens, Tommy Dahlk,
Evan Bland, Joe Ganz

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Scott Bruhn, NU Sports Information,
Aaron Babcock, Randy Hampton
and Rivals.com

SPORTS MARKETING
& ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Tim Francis (800) 524-9527, ext. 111

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True freshman offensive linemen to earn letters at Nebraska since 1972:

JAKE YOUNG (1986-89)

WILL SHIELDS (1989-92)

TONIU FONOTI (1999-01)

JOHN GARRISON (1999-02)

GREG AUSTIN (2003-06)

MATT SLAUSON (2005-08)

JACOB HICKMAN (2006-PRESENT)

JAIVORIO BURKES (2007-08)

STARTING YOUNG

Officially, **JACOB HICKMAN** was a member of Nebraska's 2006 recruiting class. He went on scholarship in January of that year, after signing a letter of intent in February of 2005.

The center and leader of the Cornhusker offensive line was listed at 270 pounds on the letter-of-intent-signees release. But that was probably generous, and lighter than he needed to be.

He played at about 245 pounds at Centennial High School in Bakersfield, Calif. He also had undergone two surgeries his senior year and was still on the mend. "I wasn't going to play that season (at Nebraska), and so it wasn't like I was too worried about that," he said.

"I figured that way I had an extra year of eligibility."

Hickman was a grayshirt, a less common term than redshirt, indicating that an

athlete is delaying full-time enrollment and, hence, going on scholarship. "You kind of get mixed signals with it," he said of grayshirting. "I mean, it's a different concept. Most people don't even know what it is."

Nebraska announced 31 letter-of-intent signees in 2005, six over the NCAA limit. In the fall of 2005, however, only 23 newcomers were listed. Some on the list of 31 had already enrolled and counted against the Cornhuskers' 2004 initial total. A couple didn't qualify academically. And junior college transfers **TYRELL SPAIN** and **VICTORY HAINES**, like Hickman, delayed their enrollment.

"Once you start doing it (grayshirt), you kind of get frustrated. 'Do they have that commitment to me?' But once you kind of get over yourself a little bit and realize the big picture, you kind of realize it was good,"

said Hickman, who played in five games as a true freshman, starting against Missouri.

He became the seventh true freshman offensive lineman to earn a letter at Nebraska since the NCAA restored freshman eligibility in 1972 – and he was just the second to start a game.

The first was **MATT SLAUSON**, who started three games, in 2005. **JAIVORIO BURKES** became the third true freshman to start in the Cornhuskers' offensive line in 2007 – he also had three starts.

The 6-foot-4 Hickman played "light," about 270, as a freshman, "which was hard," he said.

He's listed at 290 now, what he hoped would eventually be his weight.

"I kind of had an understanding of what I was going for in that respect because I knew I had to be a bigger guy than 245, playing the line," said Hickman.

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NOT THE SAME THING: Execution was a significant problem in the Cornhuskers' 31-10 loss against Texas Tech. Coach **BO PELINI** was asked if he had seen anything during practice to suggest the team would be lethargic against the Red Raiders. He wasn't saying the team was lethargic, he replied. "There's a difference between being lethargic and not executing. There's a big difference between the two."

ALL HANDS ON DECK

With freshman I-back **REX BURKHEAD** sidelined by a broken foot, running backs coach **TIM BECK** opened up competition for the job as back-up to **ROY HELU, JR.** The competition included sophomores **AUSTIN JONES** and **MARCUS MENDOZA**, redshirted freshmen **LESTER WARD** and **COLLINS OKAFOR** and true freshman **DONTRAYEVOUS ROBINSON**, who had yet to play this season.

Robinson saw action on special teams against Texas Tech.

The plan was the redshirt him. "I think at the time, with Rex playing, you felt like maybe there wasn't a need to pull the redshirt off two freshmen running backs," Beck said following practice on the Wednesday before the Texas Tech game. "We've got to win games, and that comes first."

"I talked to 'Tray' about that. He wants to play. 'Coach, I'll do whatever.' "

Even though Robinson was practicing regularly with the scout team, "I've been very pleased with Dontrayevous. I figured (with) him doing scout-team work for us, he might have been further behind than he was. He knows it (the offense) better than I thought he did," said Beck.

Robinson is the sixth true freshman to play this season.

"Dontrayevous is a very physical runner," Beck said. "He's a winner, and he's just one of those guys who just finds a way to get the job done."

YOUNGER THAN HE LOOKS

Junior wide receiver **NILES PAUL** is only 20-years-old. He celebrated his 20th birthday in early August. But people constantly tell him he looks older. "It started when I was like 13 and I was the only kid with a mustache," he said.



BECK'S PRESENCE

After redshirted freshman I-back **COLLINS OKAFOR** returned to the team after a brief absence, he talked with **TIM BECK**, his position coach. "I just think sometimes guys maybe listen to the wrong people or maybe hear the wrong things, and instead of going to the source, they're going to other people and trying to find answers," said Beck. "All you've got to do is just come talk to us. The funny thing is, I remember telling him, I said, 'You never know, you may be starting by game six. Who knows?'"

The Texas Tech game was Nebraska's sixth, and though Okafor didn't play, much less start, he was among those competing for the job as back-up to **ROY HELU, JR.** after **REX BURKHEAD** was sidelined.

PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE

Quarterback **ZAC LEE** and center **JACOB HICKMAN** have been roommates on the road. "Jake and I get along pretty well," Lee said before the first road trip to Virginia Tech. "His big thing was, he needed someone who didn't snore really loud ... so I haven't been hit yet, or anything like that. I got a pillow thrown at me, which he (Hickman) said he was just doing to make sure I didn't snore."

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WHAT A RUSH

Yes, it's been eight years since Nebraska ran wild against Baylor. In 2001, the Cornhuskers tied an NCAA record when four players rushed for 100 or more yards in a 48-7 victory at Waco, Texas.

THUNDER COLLINS led the ground assault, with 165 yards on 13 carries. **DAHRRAN DIEDRICK** carried 20 times for 137 yards and one touchdown. **ERIC CROUCH** carried 18 times for 132 yards and three touchdowns. And **JUDD DAVIES** had a career day with 119 yards and two touchdowns.

Nebraska finished with 641 yards rushing, the second-highest total in school history. In a 68-0 victory against New Mexico State in 1982, the Cornhuskers rushed for 677 yards.

They set an NCAA record that day, not losing a yard on any of their 78 rushing attempts.

The 2001 game at Baylor was delayed 36 minutes in the second quarter because of lightning.

FATHER KNOWS BEST

ROY HELU, JR. was asked recently if he watched any running backs who reminded him of how he ran. "No," he said. "The best advice I've ever got – probably not ever got, but football-wise – was from my dad. He was just telling me, 'Run the way you are. Don't try to imitate other people.' That doesn't mean (not) to look at film and see ways to improve as a running back. Don't change your style."

SIDELINES



NIGHT TIME'S THE RIGHT TIME, OR NOT

Tight end **MIKE MCNEILL** is among those who prefer night games, particularly over games with a late-morning kickoff. The junior from Kirkwood, Mo., is "not really a morning person."

Before night games, he passes the time during the day by sleeping. "I can sleep in a chair. I can sleep on a bus, anywhere, plane; that stuff doesn't bother me. I'm a good sleeper," he said.

Senior center **JACOB HICKMAN** is the opposite. "I hate late games," he said, particularly on the road because "you sit in the hotel for what seems like two days and, I mean, you're sitting there kind of getting stir crazy, even. You just want to get started. You try to take a nap if you can."

"It's doubtful that you'll be able to."

Unless, of course, you're like McNeill.

FUNNY GUY

Tackle Marcel Jones on offensive linemate Keith Williams: "Keith's a pretty good guy off the field. He's a jokester. He's really cool just to hang around with, a good teammate to have."



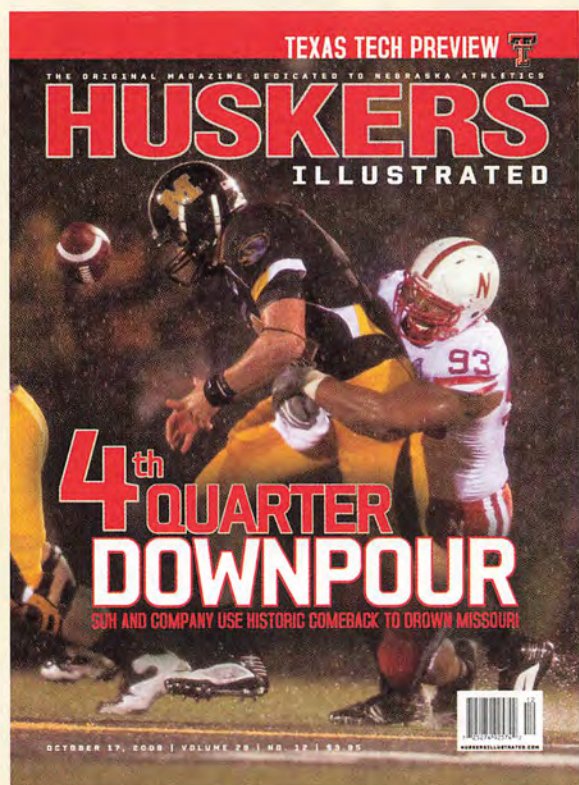
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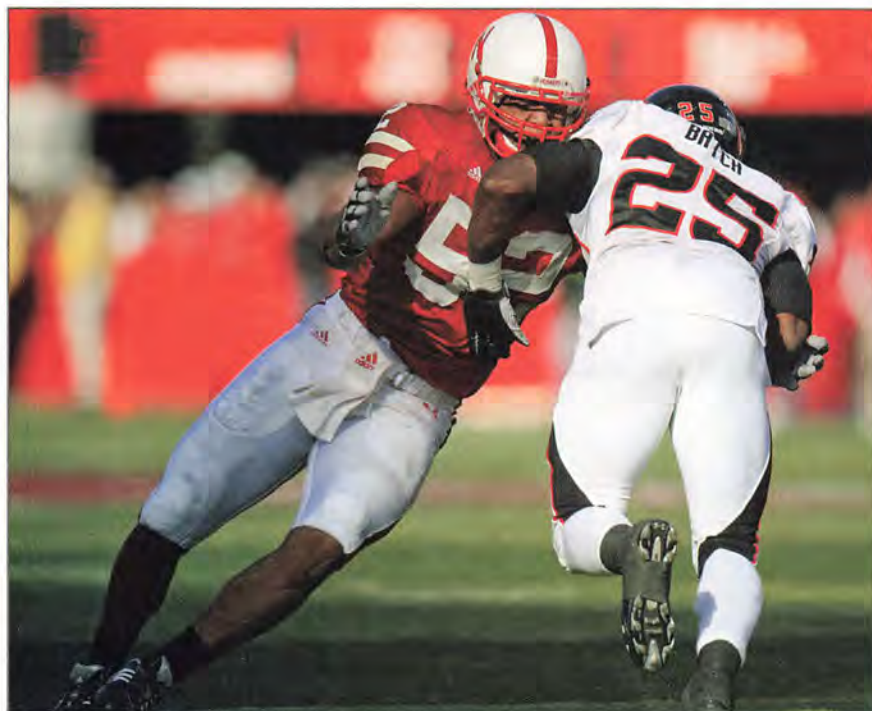
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PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE

Senior linebacker **PHILLIP DILLARD** didn't play in the first two games this season, not at all. But when he got the call, at the weakside position instead of the middle, he responded. He was the Cornhuskers' leading tackler against Texas Tech, with 12, including eight solo and four for losses.

He was prepared because of advice from his mom. "I just hear a voice every day, 'Just be patient. Everything happens for a reason, and keep a great attitude and character because your character is what's going to take you a lot longer than anything,'" he said. "So I just stay focused."

"Whenever my team needed me or the coaches called on me, I made sure I could perform at a level I could help my teammates. So it really wasn't that hard. I just handled it the right way."

BREAK AWAY PLAY

Nebraska recorded 47 plays of 20 or more yards through the first six games, while opponents notched 27. Here's a game-by-game snapshot.

HUSKER LONG PLAYS, BY GAME

Team	Rush	Pass	Ret	Total
FAU	3	4	1	8
ASU	1	5	2	8
VT	4	1	4	9
LA-LAF	2	6	5	13
MU	1	1	1	3
TT	0	3	3	6

OPPONENT LONG PLAYS, BY GAME

Team	Rush	Pass	Ret	Total
FAU	1	2	2	5
ASU	1	2	0	3
VT	1	2	1	4
LA-LAF	0	2	1	3
MU	1	2	3	6
TT	1	3	2	6

SIDELINES



SPORTING NEWS MIDSEASON ALL-AMERICAN TEAM

OFFENSE

QB Jimmy Clausen, Jr., Notre Dame
 RB Mark Ingram, Soph., Alabama
 RB Toby Gerhart, Sr., Stanford
 OL Jeff Byers, Sr., USC
 OL Maurkice Pouncey, Jr., Florida
 OL Mike Johnson, Sr., Alabama
 OL Russell Okung, Sr., Oklahoma St.
 OL Sergio Render, Sr., Virginia Tech
 WR Jordan Shipley, Sr., Texas
 WR Mardy Gilyard, Sr., Cincinnati
 TE Dennis Pitta, Sr., BYU

DEFENSE

DT Ndamukong Suh, Sr., Nebraska
 DT Terrence Cody, Sr., Alabama
 DE Jerry Hughes, Sr., TCU
 DE/LB Eric Norwood, Sr., S. Carolina
 LB Brandon Spikes, Sr., Florida
 LB Rolando McClain, Jr., Alabama
 LB Chris Galippo, Soph., USC
 CB Joe Haden, Jr., Florida
 CB Kyle Wilson, Sr., Boise State
 S Eric Berry, Jr., Tennessee
 S Taylor Mays, Sr., USC

SPECIALISTS

K Kai Forbath, Jr., UCLA
 KR Chris Owusu, Soph., Stanford
 P Drew Butler, Soph., Georgia
 PR Antonio Brown, Jr., Central Michigan

Who is Suh's competition in Lombardi chase?

The preliminary watch list for the 2009 Rotary Lombardi Award was released in the spring and included 47 players. **NDAMUKONG SUH** was not among them.

The Lombardi Award Web site allowed visitors to post comments. There were 15 posts over the next week. All but two mentioned the exclusion of Suh.

One, identified only as "New Yorker," wrote: "I'm an objective observer who thinks it's absolutely ridiculous that Ndamukong Suh (Nebraska) is not on the list. Preposterous!!! Please fix this."

Suh was hardly anonymous nationally going into his senior season.

Turns out, his omission was a function of the requirements for inclusion on the preliminary watch list. Players had to have earned All-America honors or first-team all-conference recognition in a vote of conference head coaches in 2008 in order to make the list. So Suh didn't qualify.

However, any player meeting the requirements is eligible for the award, presented to down linemen on either offense or defense or linebackers who line up within 5 yards of the line of

SUH'S COMPETITION FOR THE ROTARY LOMBARDI AWARD

SEMI-FINALISTS, POS., SCHOOL (HT, WT)	JERSEY NO.
Terrence Cody, NG, Alabama (6-5, 365)	62
Rennie Curran, LB, Georgia (5-11, 228)	35
Carlos Dunlap, DE, Florida (6-6, 290)	8
Jerry Hughes, DE, TCU (6-3, 257)	98
Rolando McClain, LB, Alabama (6-4, 258)	25
Gerald McCoy, DT, Oklahoma (6-4, 297)	93
Eric Norwood, LB, South Carolina (6-1, 252)	40
Russell Okung, OLT, Oklahoma State (6-5, 300)	76
George Selvie, DE, South Florida (6-4, 250)	95
Brandon Spikes, LB, Florida (6-3, 258)	51
Sean Weatherspoon, LB, Missouri (6-2, 245)	12

[Boldface indicates Big 12]

Selvie, Spikes and Weatherspoon were semi-finalists last season. Selvie also was a semi-finalist in 2007. Texas defensive end Brian Orakpo was the 2008 winner. The other finalists were Alabama offensive tackle Andre Smith, USC linebacker Rey Maualuga and Ohio State linebacker James Laurinaitis.

scrimmage.

An official Lombardi Award watch list was released in mid-August, with Suh among the 153 players included. And when 12 semi-finalists for the award were announced in mid-October, he was among them, at No. 11 on the list – only because the names were in alphabetical order.

The list will be cut to four finalists, who will be announced on Nov. 10, with all four invited to Houston for the ceremony to announce the winner on Dec. 9.

Voters for the award, established in 1970 (the year Vince Lombardi died) and

presented by the Houston Rotary Club, include all head coaches of NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision teams, previous winners and finalists for the award, as well as selected members of the news media. **N**

CORNHUSKER LOMBARDI AWARD WINNERS

Rich Glover, MG (1972) - pictured

Dave Rimington, C (1982)
Dean Steinkuhler, OG (1983)
Grant Wistrom, RE (1997)



[Other Cornhusker finalists]

Rich Glover, MG (1971)
Larry Jacobson, DT (1971)
Broderick Thomas, OLB (1988)
Zach Wiegert, OT (1994)
Jared Tomich, RE (1996)
Dominic Raiola, C (2000)





READING THE FIELD

BY JOE GANZ

Handling the media as Husker QB no easy task

WHEN YOU BECOME the starting quarterback at Nebraska, the media attention that comes with it is kind of a shock at first. My junior year, after Sam Keller got injured, I remember it seemed like a whirlwind of people who wanted to interview you when a few weeks before that, you couldn't have paid them money to talk to you when you were the back-up.

Once you get to be in the newspapers and on TV a lot, it gets to the point where it's no big deal to you, but my parents always cut out all the articles about me -- or at least all the good articles people wrote about me. It's kind of cool because when you grow up, you can show your kids those clips and maybe have some bragging rights in the house. Once you've been a starter for a while, you kind of get used to it, but for the people who don't get interviewed a lot, it's a big deal.

When you're a player, you don't read everything about yourself, but it's hard not to sometimes, especially at Nebraska, where football is the biggest thing in town. As a college kid, besides going to classes and going to practice, you usually read the paper in the mornings and watch TV at night, so it's difficult not to see it, and even if you try not to pay attention to it, you kind of catch what people say about you.

Usually, the media is pretty good to players here at Nebraska. Sometimes, you hear somebody in the media say something about you and you remember it.

I remember a couple of guys in the media who always said I was going to be a career back-up and I'd never see the field. Then, once I started playing and did well, I'd hear them say that they liked the way I played and had always thought I deserved a shot, and I was thinking to myself, "Yeah right, I watched your show and I remember what you said."

A quarterback always gets too much credit when the team wins and too much blame when it loses, so you just kind of have to stay humble and take everything in stride. The only thing you should care about is what your coaches and your teammates think about you. My goal when I was quarterback was to just make sure my coaches and my teammates were happy with how hard I was working and let everything else take care of itself and not worry about what the outside world thinks of you.

Some people might only remember the nice things people would write or say about them, but I always remembered the people

who would say the negative things about me and I kind of used that as motivations sometimes when I didn't want to get up at 7 a.m. to go in and watch film. Remembering the negative things people said always kind of fueled my fire a little bit.

When Sam Keller came here, I don't think anyone outside of the team and the coaches really thought I had a chance and that was a real motivating factor for me because I knew that I could play and I could perform at a high level. While it did give me a little extra fuel, if you need motivation from the media to get fired up, you're in the wrong sport.

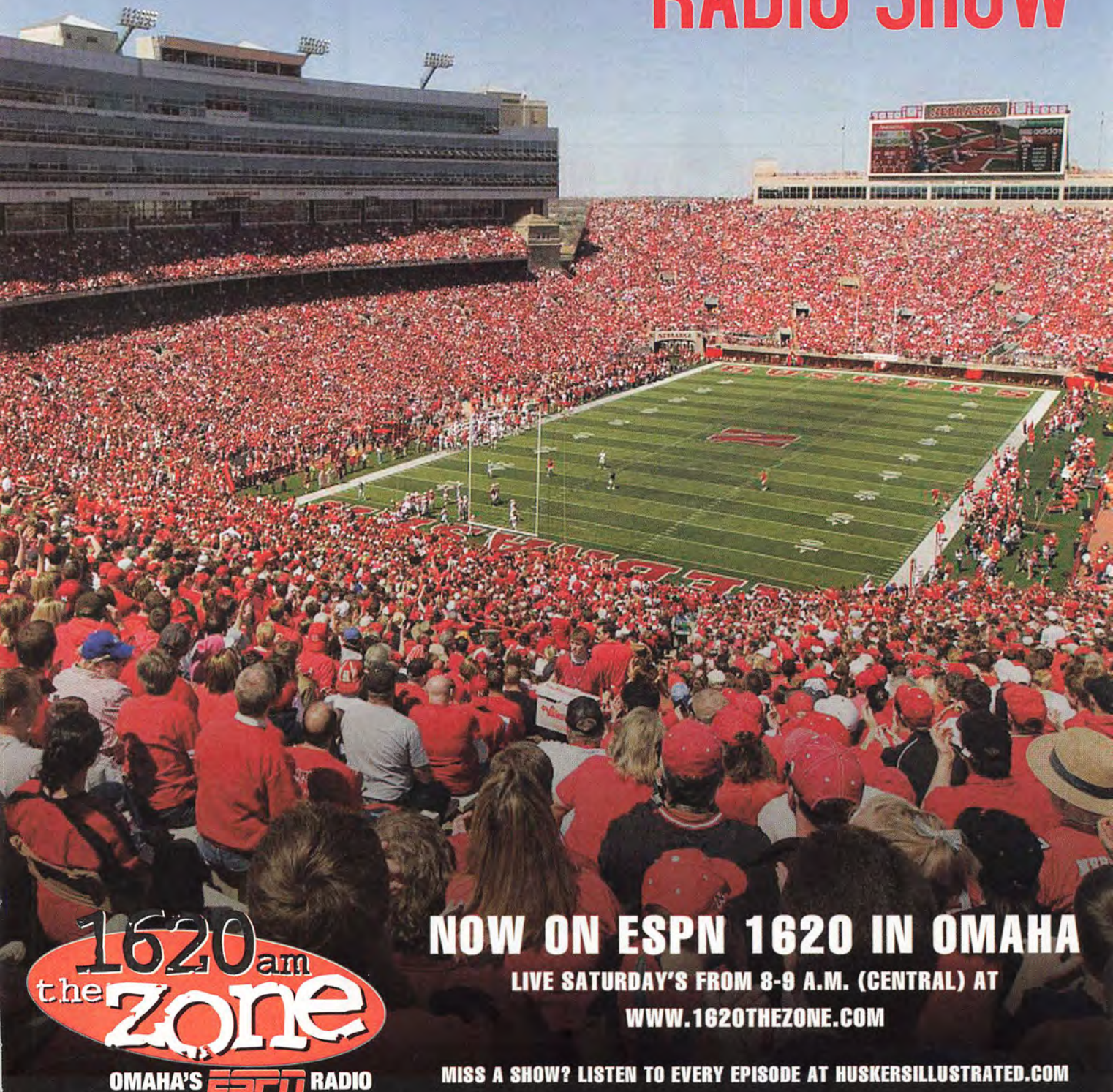
In general, the media covering Nebraska are pretty accurate in what they report, but there is always untold stuff. When you're a player, it's not that you don't answer the questions truthfully, but there are just certain things that don't leave the locker room, so fans have to take about everything the media reports with a grain of salt because there are just some things reporters don't know. **N**

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DAVID CITY, NE



E.O. "JUMBO" STIEHM was Nebraska's football coach from 1911 through 1915. His record was remarkable, 35-2-3, with his last three teams were 23-0-1, including 14 consecutive victories.

His teams were known as the "Stiehm Rollers," and they were as rugged as the nickname suggests. The rosters were small. "Stiehm scorned big squads," Omaha World-Herald sports editor **FREDERICK WARE** wrote in his history of the Nebraska football published in 1940.

"His hard-bitten pupils scorned them even more intensely. They were jealous of their positions, and they fought off aspiring sophomores as fiercely as they fought their foes from other campuses. Seldom did injuries take them from the lineup – not even broken bones."

EARL ABBOTT (pictured) was among those about whom Ware wrote. When the Cornhuskers defeated mighty Minnesota for only the second time in school history – 7-0 in Lincoln in 1913 – Abbott, a sophomore, played every down on offense and defense. The other 10 Cornhuskers did, too.

Abbott, whose nickname was "Mother," was heavier than most of Stiehm's players, at 196 pounds. An entry in the 1915 student yearbook said, poetically, of Abbott:

*Firm as a rock – he held at bay
The rival plays that came his way.
Strong as an ox – he'd tear a hole
Through which the "backs" plunged for the goal.*

According to Ware, Abbott's vicious tackling was a significant factor in a 20-19 victory against Notre Dame at Nebraska Field in 1915. The game was the first between the schools.

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Distance from Lincoln: 40 miles

NU FOOTBALL LETTERMEN:

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John Kirby, G (1961-62-63)
#**Bob Martin, DE (1973-74-75)
Mark Moravec, FB (1980-81-82)
*Hugo Otopalik, HB (1915-16-17)
James Taylor, C (1946)
**Earl Abbott, G (1913-14-15)
[*First-team all-conference]
[#Earned All-America recognition]

DID YOU KNOW?

▶ John Kirby and Bob Martin both played linebacker in the NFL. Kirby played seven seasons with the Minnesota Vikings and New York Giants. Martin played four seasons with the New York Jets and San Francisco 49ers; he had five career interceptions.

▶ Martin's son, Jay, is a Cornhusker sophomore linebacker. Bob is an uncle of former Cornhusker linebackers Barrett Ruud and Bo Ruud.

▶ Mark Moravec's son, Brent, is a redshirted freshman safety on this year's team.

▶ Cornhusker linebackers coach Mike Ekeler was born in David City but went to high school in Blair, Neb.

SIDELINES



PRIVILEGE NOT A RIGHT

There's plenty of opportunity at tight end at Nebraska. Tight ends coach **RON BROWN**

(pictured) regularly uses

five: **MIKE MCNEILL, DREU**

YOUNG, RYAN HILL, KYLER

REED and **BEN COTTON**. In

fact, all five have seen action in the first quarter of some games this season.

"I like playing a lot of guys. I did it with wide receivers years ago and tight ends years ago," said Brown. "But it's a privilege not an expectation . . . you've got to go earn it. I told them that, you know what, if your game falls off, don't expect it, the reps. They all have unique talents. I like to get them in on certain things that they do pretty well. I want them all to become complete players."

"But we don't have an issue with fatigue."

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Ryan Hill

6-3, 250, Sophomore, Tight end, Arvada, Colo.

When Nebraska lines up in short-yardage and goal-line situations, Ryan Hill will likely get the call. "He's a tough kid. He puts his nose in there. He gets after you, and that's one of the reasons he's been our primary guy in short-yardage situations," said tight ends coach Ron Brown. "He's a great guy at 'digging' people out. He's got good pad level. So I've appreciated him."

Hill, who contributes on special teams too, has become "a guy I put in normal down-and-distance situations as well," Brown said. "He's a good receiver."

He also is an excellent student, earning first-team Academic All-Big 12 recognition last season. He has made the Big 12 Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll four times.

Hi: Who are some tight ends you try to emulate?

HILL: I don't really have one guy that I try to emulate. I like (Tony) Gonzalez because he worked really hard and seemed like he loved playing the game.

Hi: What was your recruiting experience like?

HILL: In the beginning, I was contacted by Nebraska. When I was little, I was always a Husker fan and everything, so when they gave me a call, it pretty much was a no-question thing that I was coming here. It was a really great experience being able to talk to (coach Ted) Gilmore and being able to get to know the team a little. I came to the Louisiana Tech game and did my official visit that week. It was amazing being able to see what they call "The Sea of Red."

Hi: Is it an adjustment getting used to people recognizing you?

HILL: That's how the Internet is. It seems like everybody knows everybody on the team. But it's a great experience being able to have that and knowing that you have such a great support staff.

Hi: What don't people know about playing the tight end position?

HILL: Probably that we have to be a lineman and a wide receiver at the same time. We have to be ready to block and receive at the same time, which is tough. As coach (Ron) Brown always says, we're considered hybrids. It's tougher. We just have to know when to be on our feet and when to be on our toes, which is a big thing to have to accomplish.

Hi: How easy is it to strike a good balance between blocker and receiver?

HILL: It's just lots of repetition in practice that we have before practice, during practice and after practice. Once you do it over and over again, you kind of get the feel for it.

Hi: What are your big non-football hobbies?

HILL: I like to camp and fish and stuff. I like camping out, just because I like having the Rocky Mountains around where I'm from. It's where I used to spend a lot of my time to get away. Mainly I like to fish and camp. I'll hike every once in a while, but it's hiking – I'm not much into that.

Hi: What's your biggest fishing exploit?

HILL: I've gone deep-sea fishing and stuff. I've caught all shapes and sizes on the East Coast.

Hi: How much do you have to adjust when there is a quarterback change?

HILL: It's always going to change a little bit because you've got to get used to how they do their play calls and how they throw the ball. But with us practicing since spring and summer and everything, we've adjusted really easily. I prefer a mobile guy, but anybody we have in there we're going to be ready with. It's not a big issue with us.

Hi: Why do Nebraskans say "Go Big Red"? Why not green, purple, etc.?

HILL: I don't know. I'd say maybe red is just a strength color. Maybe they decided it to be red because it's based off of that idea of strength.

Hi: What's the hardest hit you've taken and delivered?

HILL: I remember against Missouri (last season) I caught a ball in the flat and he just laid my legs out. That hurt pretty bad. I don't remember hitting other people too hard. In high school, I bent my face-mask in from hitting somebody. I had to go get another helmet, so I don't remember much after that.



Tom Sorley

Fully prepared to lead a big company



THIRTY-ONE YEARS ago, while his teammates hit Miami Beach on a daily basis the week before a Nebraska rematch against Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl, Tom Sorley was sequestered in the team hotel. Instead of experiencing the sun-and-fun outdoors, he was camped out with Tom Osborne and the Huskers' other quarterbacks, watching film and taking daily tests.

"We were all looking for an edge," Sorley said. "We knew we'd beaten probably the best football team in Oklahoma history, and we knew how difficult it was going to be to beat them again."

Nebraska had upset No. 1 Oklahoma, 17-14, two weeks before Thanksgiving in 1978, but fell short in the rematch, 31-24.

Sorley, though, emerged from that experience with an analytical mindset, a fierce determination and a winning

attitude...all important attributes he now carries as chairman and CEO of Rosendin Electric.

"Football was invaluable to me in what I do now," Sorley said. "Coach Osborne instilled in me the skill sets that have been instrumental in my own business career. He taught me about preparation and planning, sacrifice and dedication. His whole focus was on the development of people and helping them reach their full potential. Those are admirable qualities that I aspire to bring to my own organization."

And what an organization it is. Rosendin began in the early 1920s, survived the Depression and today has grown to 2,100 employees, a home office in San Jose and branch offices in San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Tempe, Albuquerque, Las Vegas and suburban Portland.

An employee-owned company, Rosendin is the nation's second largest electrical contractor with 2008 revenues of \$893 million.

Besides marrying Kendra, his Big Spring, Texas, high school sweetheart and signing a letter of intent to play for Nebraska, the next two biggest things that happened to Sorley were getting a summer job with Paul Schorr at Commonwealth Electric when he was



TOM SORLEY

LETTERS: 1976-77-78

POSITION: Quarterback

WIFE: Kendra

CHILDREN: Elisha, 31; Drew 29

CURRENT: Chairman and CEO, Rosendin Electric, San Jose, Calif.

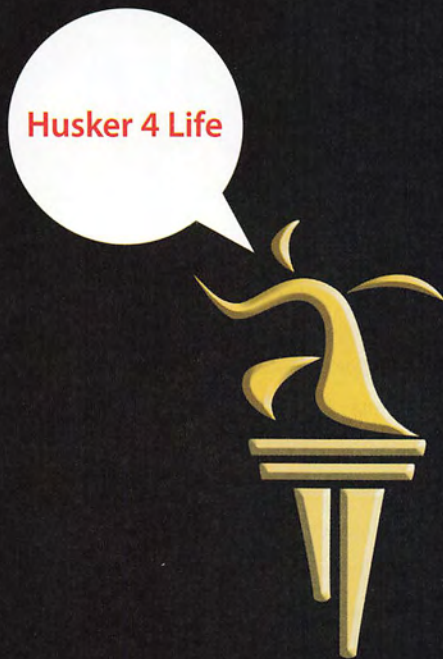
RESIDENCE: Danville, Calif.

a Husker and signing with the Denver Broncos after he finished his college career.

"Signing with the Broncos was important," Sorley said, "because Red Miller was their coach and after watching me play in two NFL exhibition games, he told me I should think about becoming an electrical contractor."

Sorley, who bypassed Houston, Baylor, TCU and North Texas to become a Husker, took Miller's advice and climbed the corporate ladder faster than he climbed a Nebraska depth chart.

"Everything I've done in business I learned at Nebraska," he said. "So much of it is caring about each other, finding people's strengths and empowering them to do what they do best. Coach Osborne built his reputation on those principles. It was never about him. It was always about the team and what we could do together. That's the way our company runs...together." **N**



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STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY CURT MCKEEVER

Nebraska's history with in-season QB changes

NATIONALLY, THE big-buzz story the week following the Huskers' loss to Texas Tech involved the investigation into possible criminal charges for a Colorado couple who told authorities their 6-year-old son floated off in a balloon shaped like a flying saucer.

Here in Nebraska, the balloon-boy hoax got small headlines compared to those that dealt with the question of Nebraska's up-for-grabs starting quarterback spot.

Zac Lee or Cody Green?

It seems that such debate about who's best-equipped to steer the Huskers is an almost-annual affair. Human nature leads many folks to take a bigger liking to No. 2 -- unless, of course, he gets promoted and then doesn't come through with Super Bowl MVP-type efficiency. You may recall how Scott Frost, to the delight of many fans, got pulled for Frankie London briefly against Central Florida in the second game of the 1997 season. London led the Huskers to a quick TD, but Frost survived the hoopla and a few months later was the toast of Huskerville.

Proof of how risky an in-season quarterback change can be even if the starter is in a rut is reflected by the fact that the last time Nebraska made such a switch was 10 years ago -- when Eric Crouch was elevated past Bobby Newcombe before the third game of the 1999 season. For the Huskers, that one turned out about as well as

possible. Crouch led them to the Big 12 championship and, over the next two years, 21 more wins and a spot in the 2001 national championship.

So how have other in-season quarterback switches worked out at Nebraska over the last 30 years?

1992: True freshman Tommie Frazier took over for senior Mike Grant in the sixth game at Missouri. Nebraska, on its way to a Big Eight crown, would win 34-24 behind Frazier's 234 yards and three TDs. The Huskers would play for the national championship each of the next three seasons, winning two, and Frazier wound up being the only player ever to win MVP of three national title games.

1991: Keithen McCant, who'd lost a close race with returning starter and fellow senior Mickey Joseph, took over in the second game and directed a 71-14 rout of Colorado State. NU would lose to eventual co-national champion Washington the following week, but McCant would lead the Huskers past Arizona State for their first win against a ranked team in three seasons, and at year's end was named Big Eight Offensive Player of the Year.

1990: Grant started the season-opener but bruised a knee and was replaced by Joseph in the next two games. Grant returned as the starter in the fourth and fifth games, but Joseph started the remaining regular-season games, including a tough home loss to eventual co-national champion Colorado when

NU entered that game 8-0. He'd suffer a severe leg laceration in the finale against Oklahoma, leading Grant to start the Citrus Bowl against the other co-national champ, Georgia Tech. He was replaced in that game by Tom Haase.

1984: Travis Turner replaced fellow senior Craig Sundberg after Sundberg threw three interceptions in a 17-3 win against Oklahoma State in the fifth game. NU went 5-1 with Turner starting the final six regular-season games, but Sundberg got the start in the Sugar Bowl against LSU, and in a 28-10 Husker win was named the game's MVP.

1981: Sophomore Turner Gill became the third player to start -- following senior Mark Mauer and junior Nate Mason -- when he was elevated for the fifth game against Colorado. Gill threw four touchdown passes in a 59-0 rout. The Huskers would go on to win three straight Big Eight titles (Mauer capped the first by stepping in for an injured Gill to spark a 37-14 win against Oklahoma) and play in two national title games.

1979: Junior Jeff Quinn began the season as the starter but gave way to senior Tim Hager, who started fall camp No. 5 on the depth chart. With Quinn injured, Hager came off the bench in the second game to spark a victory against Iowa, then started seven more before Quinn regained the top spot for the final three. NU was 10-0 when it lost to Oklahoma and then Houston in the Cotton Bowl by 17-14 scores. **N**

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PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

Eight is enough for ISU

Despite having already committed a mind-boggling seven turnovers, Nebraska began its final possession at its own 18-yard line with 1:53 remaining and victory over Iowa State still a possibility.

However, needing just a field goal to take the lead, the Cornhuskers' last-chance opportunity was short-lived. After three consecutive incompletions to start the drive, Nebraska quarterback Zac Lee was intercepted by Cyclones' linebacker Jesse Smith at the NU 35 with 1:31 remaining to seal Iowa State's 9-7 victory at Memorial Stadium.

"It's one of those things where I got hit right when I threw it," Lee said of his final pass. "I was just trying to give Wes

(Cammack) a chance. Obviously, the ball came up a little shy of what I would've liked, but it was just one of those things."

Nebraska set a single-game school record with a minus-eight turnover margin against ISU. The eight turnovers, which included five lost fumbles and three interceptions, also tied a school record set two other times (against Colorado in 1967 and at Iowa State in 1972).

What was even more frustrating for Nebraska was four of its turnovers came inside the Iowa State 5. The result was just one touchdown for the Huskers, despite gaining 362 yards of total offense.

"We moved the ball well -- we really did -- they just did a good job of stripping it," Lee said of Iowa State's defenders. "They did a good job of making plays

and causing turnovers. It's really that simple."

Remarkably, it wasn't until the eighth turnover that defeat became imminent for the Huskers.

"Until we realized the game was over, we all thought we'd come back," Nebraska tight end Mike McNeill said. "We were down two points. It's not like we ever thought we were out of it."

Much of the credit for that goes to Nebraska's defense. The Huskers limited the Cyclones to 239 total yards.

"We were lucky to be in the football game," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said. "Eight turnovers? We could've got run out of this stadium."

"I don't know if I've ever been around that in my coaching career." **N**

— by Terry Douglass



PHOTO BY AARON BARCOCK

SUH'S EFFORTS NOT ENOUGH

Another game, another standout performance for Nebraska's **NDAMUKONG SUH**.

During his team's 9-7 loss to Iowa State, Suh finished with eight tackles, a sack, three quarterback hurries and two blocked kicks. The Cornhuskers' senior defensive tackle has at least one tackle for loss in 17 of Nebraska's past 18 games.

Afterwards, Suh described his play as "average."

"It wasn't enough to get the win," Suh said. "I'd rather have no tackles -- no nothing -- and have the worst game of my life, but if I come out with the win, I'll be happy."

Suh, who blocked a second-quarter point-after kick and a fourth-quarter field-goal try against the Cyclones, now has five career blocked kicks. That leaves him two

shy of **BARRON MILES'** school-record seven blocked kicks from 1992-94.

Suh said his knack for blocking kicks is actually a team effort.

"I have a great teammate in **JARED CRICK**," Suh said. "We get a great push together and we have **BARRY TURNER** coming down from the outside and it's our three-man rush. It's really due to all three of us and I was just the lucky one to get it."

QB QUANDRY

After all that was made by fans and media about a possible change at starting quarterback, Nebraska's **ZAC LEE** made his seventh consecutive start against Iowa State. The junior, who had come under scrutiny for his struggles this season against BCS-conference foes, was 20-of-37 passing for 248 yards with three

interceptions against the Cyclones.

Despite all the outside discussion of a potential switch to true freshman quarterback **CODY GREEN** following a 31-10 home loss to Texas Tech on Oct. 17, Nebraska coach **BO PELINI** said the decision to remain with Lee as the starter was an easy one.

"Zac's more prepared," Pelini said. "Cody Green is not quite ready. He's getting there, but Zac is ahead of Cody right now."

Despite the loss and Nebraska's school-record tying eight turnovers, Pelini said Lee was the least of the Huskers' problems against Iowa State.

"I thought Zac played well. I thought he did a lot of good things," Pelini said of Lee. "We didn't play well around Zac. We had dropped throws. We had bad



PHOTO BY AARON BARCOCK

QUICKLY

CREDIT THE 'CLONES

No thanks to its eight turnovers, a streak of 126 straight victories by Nebraska when holding the opposition to 10 points or fewer came to an end against Iowa State.

While takeaways were obviously the key to the Cyclones' first victory at Lincoln since 1977, NU coach **BO PELINI** was hesitant to acknowledge that the Huskers beat themselves with turnovers.

"I don't want to say that because that would discredit the effort that they put forth," Pelini said of Iowa State, which came up with five fumble recoveries and three interceptions. "They did what was necessary to win the football game."

WORTH NOTING

► Iowa State's victory over Nebraska snapped the Cyclones' 15-game losing streak to Nebraska in Lincoln dating back to 1977. The loss also snapped the Huskers' five-game winning streak against Big 12 North Division opponents.

► Nebraska game captains were junior quarterback **ZAC LEE**, junior offensive guard **RICKY HENRY**, senior linebacker **PHILLIP DILLARD** and sophomore linebacker **MATHEW MAY** (special teams).

► The attendance of 85,938 marked the third-largest crowd in Memorial Stadium history.

execution around him.

"We had a chance to have boatload of points in this game, but we put the ball on the ground."

STICKING TOGETHER

In a show of team unity, Nebraska's players made a departure from their normal pregame tunnel-walk entrance and walked onto the field in rows, locked arm in arm.

"Coach wanted us to show we're still together and we're sticking together no matter what happens," Nebraska tackle **MIKE SMITH** said. "We don't want the team dividing. We want to stay focused and together. We just wanted to show our togetherness."

Will the Huskers continue the show of unity in future games?

"I don't know," Nebraska defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH** said. "We'll just have to wait and see."

REVISED GOALS?

Off to a 1-2 start in Big 12 Conference play, Nebraska coach **BO PELINI** didn't paint a rosy picture when asked about his team's position. The Huskers are 1 1/2 games behind Big 12 Conference North leader Kansas State, but still have divisional games remaining against the Wildcats,

Kansas and Colorado.

"We'll be black and white about where we are and what we can still accomplish," Pelini said.

After rallying to win its Big 12 opener on the road at Missouri, Nebraska -- the Big 12 preseason media poll pick to win the North -- has suffered losses to Texas Tech and Iowa State in consecutive games at home.

"We haven't executed to the level to play good football and that starts with me," Pelini said. "I'm the head guy and I take full responsibility for it."

ROBINSON'S RUNS

With starting I-back **ROY HELU JR.** apparently still battling an injury, Nebraska true freshman I-back **DONTRAYEVIOUS ROBINSON** got his first career carry against Iowa State and finished with 77 yards rushing on 15 attempts and his first career touchdown in the first quarter.

"Dontrayevous came in and gave us some spark," Nebraska offensive coordinator **SHAWN WATSON** said. "He's going to be a really good football player. He's young ... This is the first time he's seen these kinds of lights."

"Overall we were pleased with his effort and pleased with how he worked this week in practice."



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IOWA STATE



NEBRASKA

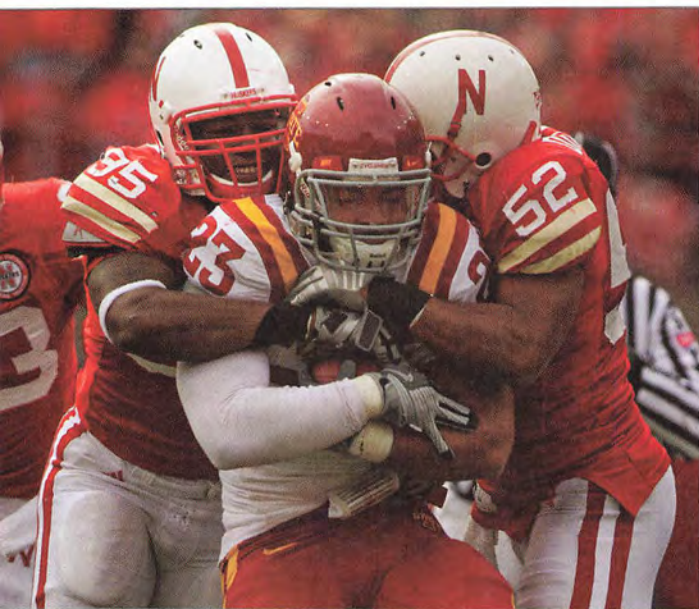


PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

FAN OF THE GAME

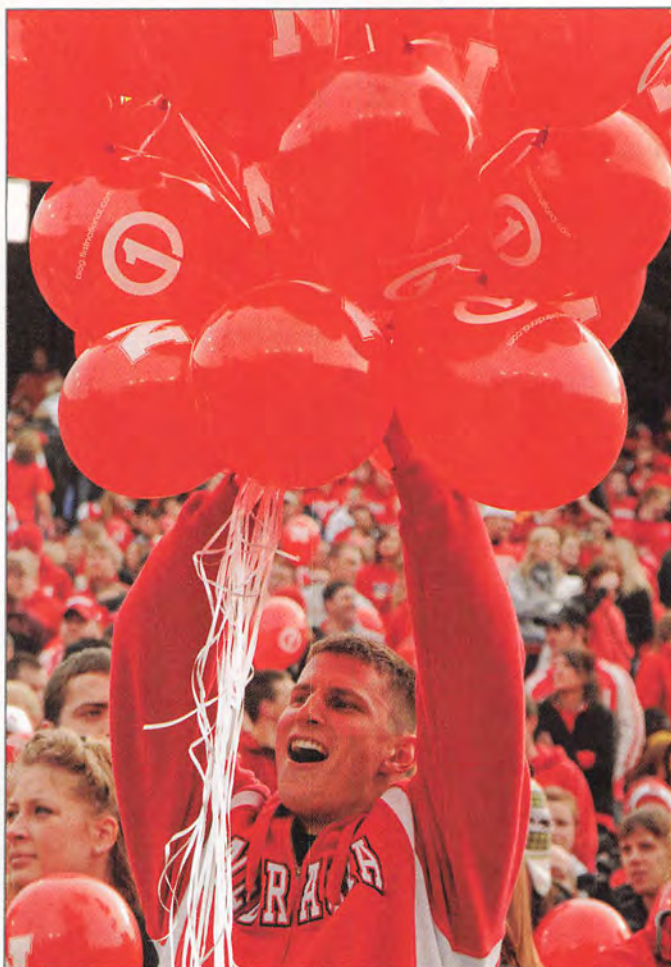


PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

Sean Shanahan, UNL senior from North Platte gets a lift cheering in the student section.



REPORT CARD

RUSHING:

Nebraska played well enough on offense to win ... if you take away the takeaways, which, of course, you can't. Freshman

DONTRAYEVIOUS ROBINSON ran well, but lost a fumble. **ROY HELU, JR.** lost two fumbles. So never mind that the Huskers averaged 4.1 yards per carry.

PASSING:

ZAC LEE "managed a good game today," offensive coordinator **SHAWN WATSON** said. But Lee threw three interceptions and fumbled twice, though neither was lost. Nebraska's receivers accounted for two lost fumbles, however, further negating the positives in the passing game.

RUSHING DEFENSE:

Iowa State's best running back, junior **ALEXANDER ROBINSON**, didn't play. So it figured the Cyclones would have problems running the ball, which they did. They ran a lot, however, 48 times, managing almost nothing. In fact, their longest run, 20 yards, was by punter **MIKE BRANDTNER**, on a fake punt.

PASSING DEFENSE:

One breakdown, a 47-yard pass play, produced a touchdown that held up, thanks to Nebraska's inability to maintain offensive possession. Eight of the Huskers' 13 possessions ended in turnovers. So there was no margin for error by the defense.

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS:

NDAMUKONG SUH blocked an extra-point kick and then a field goal attempt, which **SEAN FISHER** returned 34 yards to set up what could have been the winning points. **ALEX HENERY** averaged 40.2 yards on four punts, one out of bounds at the ISU 2-yard line, another at the ISU 6.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

NEBRASKA STARS

► Omaha Northwest running back Antaries Daniels set a new Class A single game rushing record of 410 yards in a 51-33 loss to Omaha Benson. Daniels had 36 carries for 410 yards and four touchdowns. Daniels broke Omaha South's Jerry Swain's rushing record of 398 yards set in 1991.

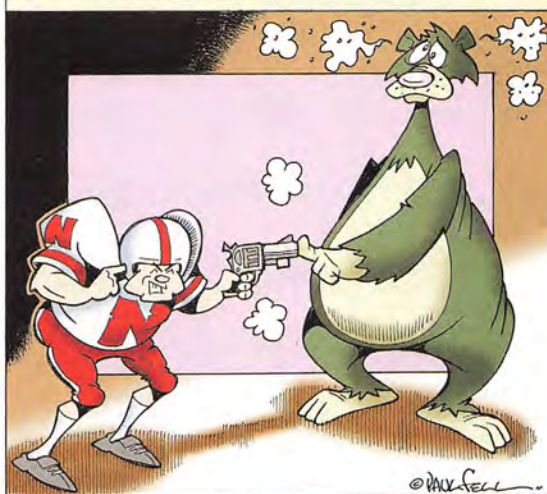
► Millard South quarterback Bronson Marsh had 184 yards passing and 109 yards rushing for a combined five touchdowns in a 56-21 rout of Millard North.

► Crete 2011 linebacker prospect Brock Sherman had 34 carries for 174 yards and two touchdowns in a 31-14 win over Lincoln Pius X on Friday night.

► Omaha Burke 2011 quarterback prospect Jimmy Forsythe had 143 yard rushing and three touchdowns, to go along with 256 yards passing and four touchdowns through the air in a 55-38 win over Papillion-La Vista South on Friday night.

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QUICK PICKS



Aaron Babcock
(35-19/4-4)



Mike Babcock
(36-18/6-2)



Sean Callahan
(34-20/5-3)



John Talman
(35-19/5-3)



Matt Davison
(36-18/5-3)

(Season/Last Week)	Aaron Babcock (35-19/4-4)	Mike Babcock (36-18/6-2)	Sean Callahan (34-20/5-3)	John Talman (35-19/5-3)	Matt Davison (36-18/5-3)
Nebraska at Baylor	NU 17-9	NU 31-7	NU 17-13	NU 23-10	NU 24-14
Missouri at Colorado	MU 24-17	CU 21-20	MU 31-28	MU 38-21	MU 35-10
Iowa State at Texas A&M	A&M 28-14	A&M 28-21	A&M 27-20	A&M 42-28	A&M 35-21
Kansas at Texas Tech	TT 31-28	TT 42-38	TT 45-35	KU 39-31	TT 35-31
Kansas State at Oklahoma	OU 45-10	OU 35-12	OU 38-6	OU 48-14	OU 42-21
Texas at Oklahoma State	UT 35-21	UT 31-27	UT 41-31	UT 37-17	UT 42-35
Georgia vs. Florida	UF 28-10	UF 38-7	UF 23-13	UF 28-21	UF 48-28
USC at Oregon	USC 24-21	UO 34-31	USC 31-27	USC 41-29	USC 28-17

SUMMARY

SCORING

Oct. 24, 2009
Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.
Attendance: 85,938

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Tot
Iowa State	3	6	0	0	9
Nebraska	7	0	0	0	7

First Quarter

	ISU	NU
ISU Mahoney 52-yard Field Goal 13:24	3	0
Drive: 4 plays 4 yds 1:20		
NU Robinson 3-yard Run (Henery Kick) 03:26	3	7
Drive: 9 plays 42 yds 4:06		

Second Quarter

	ISU	NU
ISU Williams Pass from Tiller 47-yards (Mahoney Kick Failed) 06:53	9	7
Drive: 7 plays 83 yds 2:56		

TEAM STATS

	ISU	NU
Total First Downs	11	15
Rushing	7	4
Passing	4	9
Penalty	0	2
Rushing Attempts	48	28
Yards Gained Rushing	152	126
Yards Lost Rushing	15	12
Net Yards Rushing	137	114
Net Yards Passing	102	248
Passes Attempted	19	37
Passes Completed	9	20
Had Intercepted	0	3
Percent Completion	47.4%	54.1%
Yards per Attempt	5.4	6.7
Yards per Completion	11.3	12.4
Total Offensive Plays	67	65
Total Net Yards	239	362
Avg. Gain Per Play	3.6	5.6
Fumbles: No-Lost	1-0	7-5
Penalties: No-Yards	8-72	3-25
Punts: No-Yards	9-360	4-161
Avg. Per Punt	40.0	40.2
Avg. Net Punt	38.8	38.2
Punt Returns: No-Yards	2-8	3-11
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	2-35	3-80
Interception Returns: No-Yards	3-27	0-0
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	0-0	0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	34
Possession Time	33:40	26:20
Third-Down Conversions	5-18	5-13
Percentage	27.8%	38.5%
Fourth-Down Conversions	1-1	0-1
Percentage	100.0%	0.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	1-4	1-6

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Robinson	15	84	7	77	5.1	1	21
Helu Jr.	5	24	0	24	4.8	0	14
Mendoza	2	8	0	8	4.0	0	7
Lee	6	10	5	5	0.8	0	4
Total	28	126	12	114	4.1	1	21

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Lee	37	20	54.1	3	248	0	72
Total	37	20	54.1	3	248	0	72

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Paul	6	143	0	72
Kinnie	3	27	0	13
McNeill	2	22	0	17
Gilleylen	3	18	0	9
Holt	2	17	0	10
Helu Jr.	3	13	0	11
Mendoza	1	8	0	8
Total	20	248	0	72

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Paul	3	11	0	7
Total	3	11	0	7

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Paul	2	54	0	33
Marlowe	1	26	0	26
Total	3	80	0	33

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Henery	4	40.2	49	0	0	0	0	3
Total	4	40.2	49	0	0	0	0	3

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Total	0	0	0	0

Defense	Tac	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Dillard	5	7	12	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Fisher	2	7	9	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Crick	5	3	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Suh	6	2	8	1-6	1-6	0	0	0
Dennard	3	2	5	1-1	0-0	2	0	0
Compton	1	3	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
O'Hanlon	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Turner	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	1	1	0
Amukamara	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Asante	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Meredith	2	1	3	1-2	0-0	0	0	0
Gomes	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Blue	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hagg	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Stoddard	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
TEAM	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Total	0	0	0	0

IOWA STATE

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Tiller	19	73	8	65	3.4	0	11
Schwartz	22	51	1	50	2.3	0	7
Brandtner	1	20	0	20	20.0	0	20
Lenz	1	8	0	8	8.0	0	8
TEAM	5	0	6	-6	-1.2	0	0
Total	48	152	15	137	2.9	0	20

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Tiller	19	9	47.4	0	102	1	47
Total	19	9	47.4	0	102	1	47

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Williams	2	49	1	47
Lenz	3	32	0	15
Hamilton	3	17	0	8
Catlett	1	4	0	4
Total	9	102	1	47

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Lenz	2	8	0	6
Total	2	8	0	6

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Johnson	1	21	0	21
Sims	1	14	0	14
Total	2	35	0	21

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Brandtner	9	40.0	60	0	0	2	3	5
Total	9	40.0	60	0	0	2	3	5

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Mahoney	1	2	52	1
Total	1	2	52	1

Defense	Tac	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Smith	7	5	12	1.5-3	0-0	1	1	0
Sims	5	4	9	0-0	0-0	0	1	1
Smith	5	3	8	0-0	0-0	1	0	2
Benton	3	2	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Lyle	3	2	5	1.5-4	0-0	1	1	0
Klein	1	3	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Garrin	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Johnson	2	1	3	1-1	0-0	0	1	0
Neal	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Raven	2	1	3	1-4	1-4	0	0	0
Banks	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
Ekwekundu	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Frere	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Johnson	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Morton	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
O'Connell	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1
Sandvig	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Sims	1	16	0	16
O'Connell	1	11	0	11
Smith	1	0	0	0
Total	3	27	0	16

Sat., Sept. 5	Florida Atlantic	Memorial Stadium	W, 49-3
Sat., Sept. 12	Arkansas State	Memorial Stadium	W, 38-9
Sat., Sept. 19	Virginia Tech	Blacksburg, Va.	L, 15-16
Sat., Sept. 26	La-Lafayette	Memorial Stadium	W, 55-0
Thur., Oct. 8	Missouri	Columbia, Mo.	W, 27-12
Sat., Oct. 17	Texas Tech	Memorial Stadium	L, 10-30
Sat., Oct. 24	Iowa State	Memorial Stadium	L, 7-9
Sat., Oct. 31	Baylor	Waco, Texas	11:30, Versus
Sat., Nov. 7	Oklahoma	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Nov. 14	Kansas	Lawrence, Kan.	TBA
Sat., Nov. 21	Kansas State	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Fri., Nov. 27	Colorado	Boulder, Colo.	2:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 5	Big 12 Championship	Arlington, Texas	7 p.m. (ABC)

Briles forced to change offense without Griffin



BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE

BAYLOR CENTER J.D. Walton sees bright days ahead for the program, thanks in large part to second-year Bears head coach Art Briles and the culture he's instilled.

"It's the way he carries himself, the relationships he has with the players," Walton said. "He's a big-time players' coach. He's very high-tempo, very outgoing, very excited, very fun to be around on the field. That makes practice go by a lot quicker."

Briles' leadership skills took on greater importance in late September when the shining star of the program, sophomore quarterback Robert Griffin, was lost for the season with an isolated tear in the anterior cruciate ligament of his right knee. Mostly because of Griffin, Baylor was regarded as an upstart team everybody was watching entering this season.

Griffin was hurt Sept. 26 in the first quarter of a 68-13 win against Northwestern (La.) State, yet returned to complete 13-of-19 passes for 226 yards and three touchdowns in the first half. The extent of the injury was discovered after the contest.

In the four games since Griffin's injury, Baylor has used either freshman Nick Florence or senior Blake Szymanski at quarterback. The absence of Griffin, a speedy dual-threat QB, has forced Briles to change the offense.

"We've certainly had to re-evaluate what we're doing schematically to



ART BRILES

PHOTO BY DENNIS HUBBARD

coincide with our personnel," Briles said, noting that running back Jay Finley has been sidelined by injury since the second game of the season. "So we're in the process of trying to figure out what fits the personnel we have and gives us the best opportunity for success. That's kind of been ongoing."

Changing offenses in mid-season isn't easy.

"You know, it is a challenge because you have to kind of change your personality as an offense as opposed to what you've been working on for the last eight to 10 months," Briles said. "But that's what coaches do, and that's what players do. We adapt, adjust and figure out ways to win ball games."

NOTES

► Briles said Griffin is eligible to receive a medical redshirt year -- it's basically a formality -- meaning he will have three

years remaining after this season.

► Senior wideout Ernest Smith enjoyed a two-game burst earlier this month, against Oklahoma and Iowa State, in which he hauled in 13 catches for 196 yards.

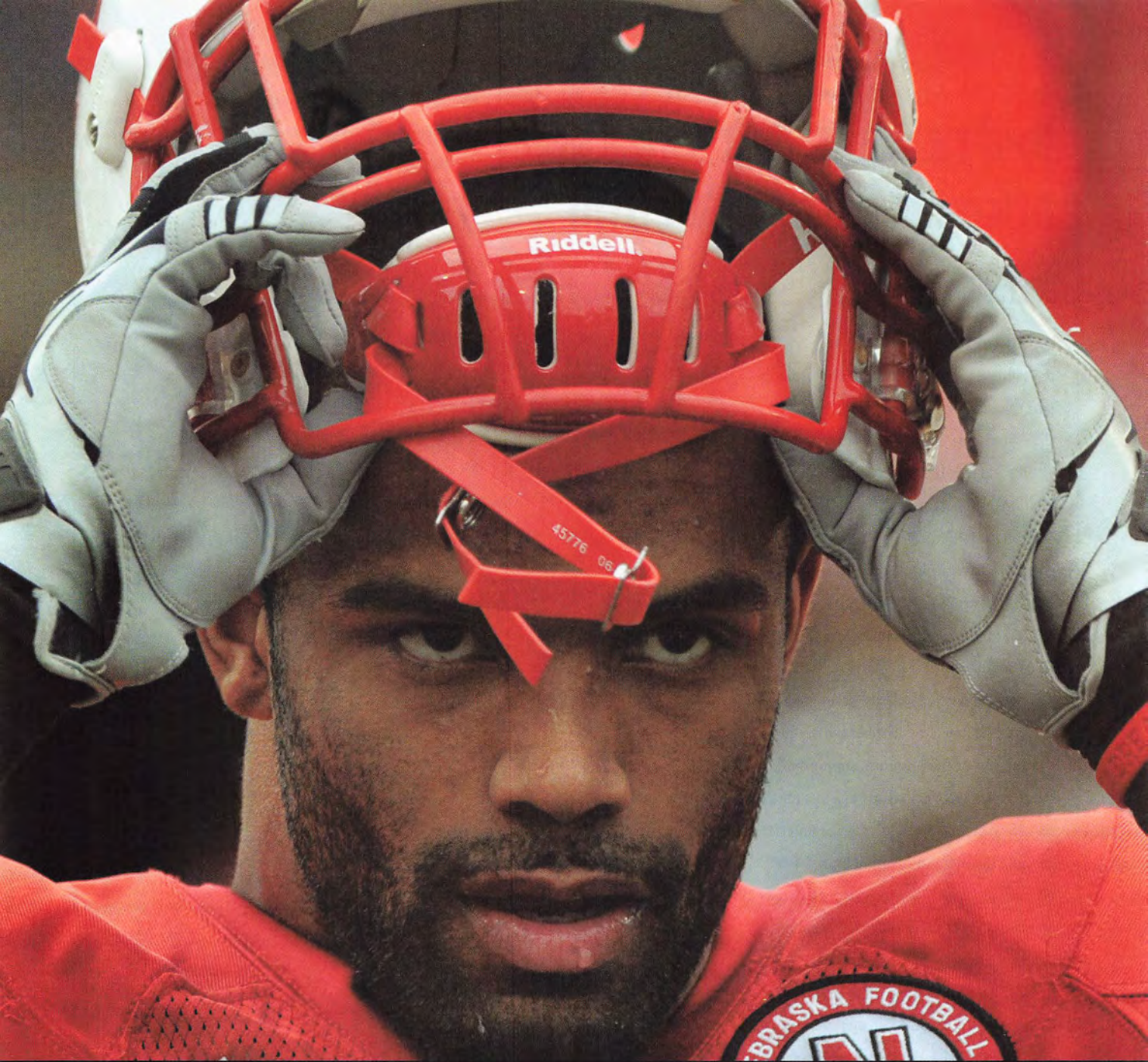
"He's a guy who just kind of rises up," Briles said.

BAYLOR QUICK FACTS

Head coach: Art Briles, 2nd year at Baylor (7-11), 7th year overall (41-39)
Enrollment: 13,886
Colors: Green and Gold
2009 record: 4-8 (2-6 Big 12)

2009 SCHEDULE

9/5	at Wake Forest, W, 24-21
9/19	Connecticut, L, 22-30
9/26	Northwestern St., W, 68-13
10/3	Kent State, W, 31-15
10/10	at Oklahoma, L, 7-33
10/17	at Iowa State, L, 10-24
10/24	Oklahoma State, 11:30am
10/31	Nebraska, 11:30am
11/7	at Missouri, TBA
11/14	Texas, TBA
11/21	at Texas A&M, TBA
11/28	Texas Tech, TBA



NILES TO GO

RECEIVER PAUL GROWS INTO LEADERSHIP ROLE | BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL



Nothing seemed to be going right for Nebraska's passing game in that Thursday night deluge at Missouri.

Just ask junior wide receiver Niles Paul.

"The ball, it was wet, it was heavy," Paul said. "It was harder to get out there. It was hard to catch. I think (weather) was an issue."

Adding to the frustration for Paul was the start of the second half, when wide receivers coach Ted Gilmore yanked starters Paul, Menelik Holt and Curenski Gilleylen, and instead started Chris Brooks, Brandon Kinnie and Khiry Cooper.

Gilmore had already told his receivers they had to remove their gloves and hand warmers for the rest of the game on a cold, rainy night.

And now this?

"At first I was a little frustrated, a little mad about it," Paul said. "But I realized he was only doing it just to get us back in the right mindset in that game. Apparently, we weren't getting the job done. So when he put us back in there, we went in there and we played hard."

"I think the old Niles would've been a lot more angry and took it personal when Coach Gilmore set us out."
Niles Paul

How Paul handled that momentary demotion exemplifies his mature growth in his three years at Nebraska. The old Niles Paul wouldn't have handled a spot

on the sideline so well.

"I think the old Niles would've been a lot more angry and took it personal when Coach Gilmore set us out," Paul said. "I would've took it personal when things weren't going my way. I would've just let myself down, as you could see in the Gator Bowl. When I had a bad game, I let myself get down. It kind of messed me up for the rest of the game."

Not against Missouri, though.

Paul, while initially discouraged, refocused on what he needed to do to help his team. His 56-yard touchdown reception from Zac Lee early in the fourth quarter busted a shutout. Less than a minute later, Paul out-jumped two Missouri defensive backs in the end zone to catch the go-ahead touchdown, as Nebraska rallied for a 27-12 victory.

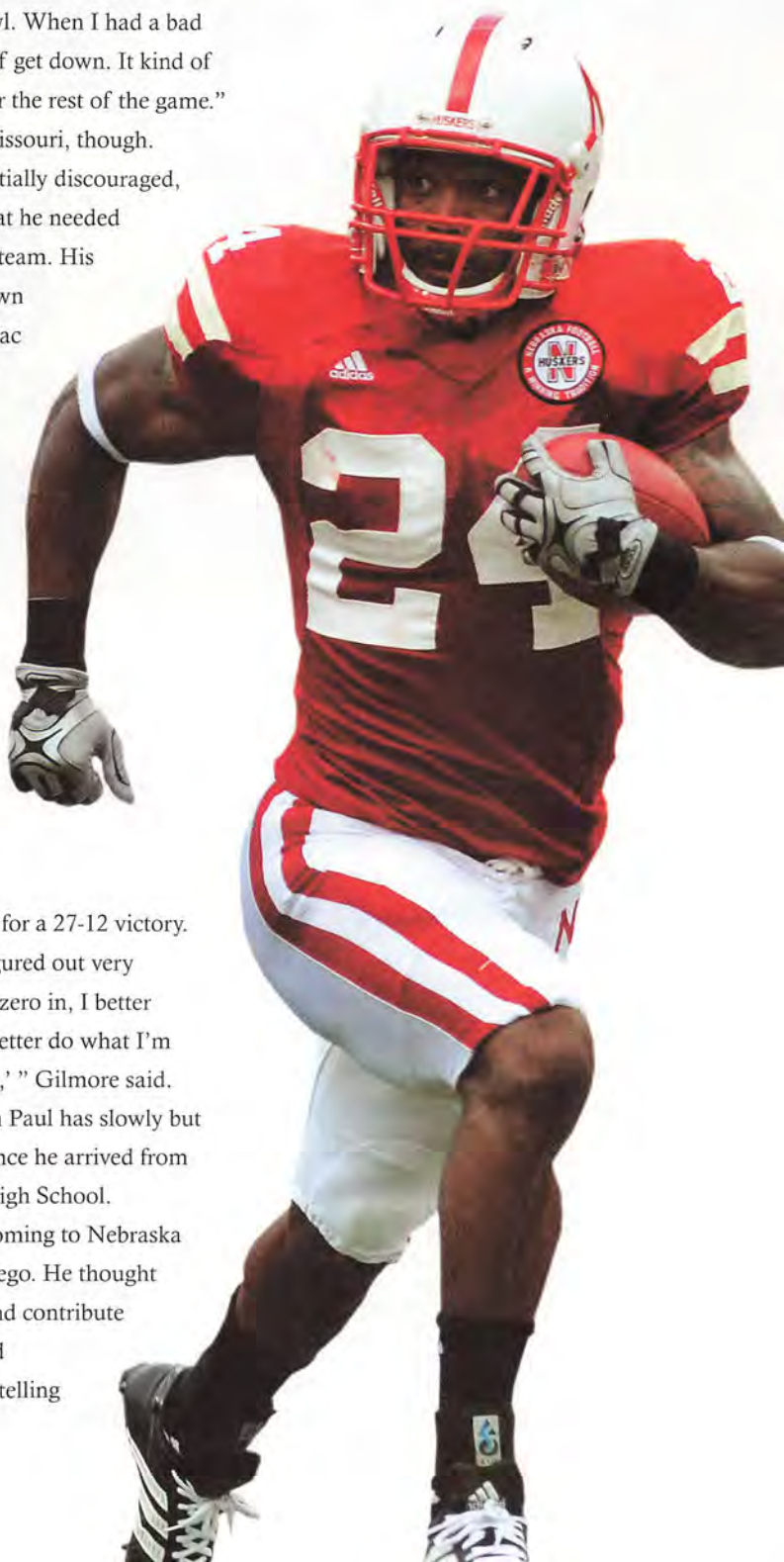
"I think he figured out very quickly, 'I better zero in, I better focus up, and I better do what I'm capable of doing,'" Gilmore said.

That's a lesson Paul has slowly but surely learned since he arrived from Omaha North High School.

Paul admits coming to Nebraska with an inflated ego. He thought he would play and contribute immediately, and made a point of telling

everybody just that. He said he knows he upset some veteran receivers with such brash comments when he first arrived.

Perhaps Paul was believing success would come as quickly and easily as he





experienced the first time he stepped on a football field.

As a sophomore in high school, Paul hadn't yet played football. He spent his eighth-grade year and freshman year living with his father and step-mother in Virginia. Paul's biological mother died when he was 12.

Living in Virginia, Paul's first love was basketball. That's all he could ever see himself playing when he began high school. When his family moved back to Omaha before his sophomore year, Paul planned on running cross country in the fall at Omaha North so he could stay in shape for basketball season.

"But my Uncle Jimmy wanted me to get out there and try out for the football team," Paul said. "The day I decided to go try out was the day they were having their scrimmage. I went out there with some regular basketball shoes on and my shoulder pads and stuff. First play they

**"Don't let
anything the
coaches do
get you down
because
they're only
here for you.
They have
your best
interest in
their minds."**

Niles Paul

threw me a deep ball, and I caught it on their starting defensive back."

Just like that, Paul had earned a starting position – at defensive back. He held that spot the rest of the season, and began playing wide receiver as a junior. He continued to play basketball throughout high school, even generating recruiting interest from colleges. Most were Division II schools, although his high school coach one day gave him a phone number to the head basketball coach at Tennessee, who wanted to talk to Paul.

Paul never called. He knew he was going to play football at Nebraska and didn't see the point. It's a decision he doesn't regret, although Paul said he sometimes wonders what would've happened had he picked up the phone.

"I know I could've had a nice basketball career," he said.

But Paul's accomplishments in football were significant – maybe too significant.

"I started letting it get to my head a little bit," he said.

Paul, who's a nephew to former Husker I-back and Omaha Central graduate Ahman Green, started hearing how he'd be the first All-American from Omaha since his uncle. How he'd be a star immediately at Nebraska.

Sure enough, Paul played the first game of his freshman season in 2007, a rout of Nevada. But when Nebraska played a tight game the following week at Wake Forest, Paul never left the sideline.

"I didn't go in at all. I was real

upset. I kind of went down on myself my whole freshman year. I stopped caring."

If only he'd listened to his father sooner.

"We always butted heads in high school because he was always telling me, 'It's not going to be what you think in college.' He warned me a lot," Paul said. "When I got here, I realized my dad wasn't just talking a bunch of bologna, he was talking the truth. He was getting me ready. I respected him so much more for that."

Coaches talked to Paul in the off-season about stepping into a leadership role with the losses of Nate Swift and Todd Peterson. They

needed him to be a positive influence for a young corps of receivers.

He heeded that advice, and teammates noticed.

"When he just sat down and looked at the big picture, his maturity, his play on the field, everything just took off," Brooks said. "I mean, this spring, I've never seen anybody like that guy."

A new Niles Paul was born, one that can pass along sage advice to freshmen who encounter difficult times.

"Just keep your head up and stay focused," he said. "Don't let anything the coaches do get you down because they're only here for you. They have your best interest in their minds."



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JERRY TAGGE

*All-American Quarterback,
1970-71*



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Vanderbilt commit checks out Huskers

BY RICK SHAW

Port Allen, La., cornerback **ANDRE HAL** was one of four official visitors on hand to watch the Huskers battle Texas Tech. Though he's been committed to Vanderbilt since early summer, Hal said the trip to Lincoln definitely opened his eyes to the possibility of heading north for college.

"I really don't know yet," the 6-foot, 170-pound Hal said about where he stood with his pledge to the Commodores after the Nebraska trip. "I just want to go home and think about it first.

"I've never seen a place like that in my life. The facilities are so good; everybody was just so good (to me). The fans were really crazy. They were the best fan base I've ever seen. It was their 301st consecutive sellout. It was packed in there. It was everything. I liked it."

Hal, rated the nation's No. 50 cornerback prospect (3 stars) by Rivals.com, finished his junior campaign with 40 tackles, five interceptions and 12 pass break-ups. This season he's already tallied 36 tackles and is averaging close to 40 yards per punt return, with three touchdowns.

Though he remains committed to Vanderbilt, Hal said he's not ruling out the possibility of switching his allegiance to the Huskers between now and signing day.

"I was really impressed with Nebraska," Hal said. "I'd give the trip a '10.' I expected it to be good, so nothing was too surprising. I feel like I can play there — they're pretty good. The defensive backs



coach (**MARVIN SANDERS**) is a very cool person. He told me all about their scheme, and I think I'd fit in well."

WR GIVES HIGH MARKS

Wide receiver **QUINCY ENUNWA** of Moreno Valley, Calif., visited Washington State and Nebraska on consecutive weekends in October. Though he liked what he saw at both schools, he admitted that the game-day atmosphere in Lincoln was special.

"The Nebraska visit was really good," the 6-2, 200-pound Enunwa said. "I didn't see any negatives. I'd give it an 8 (out of 10). Coming from the L.A. area, it was a little different, kind of a small town feel. It was

still fun. Washington State was kind of the same. Both are situations where they are the only team in town. The only difference is that at Nebraska the fans were more into it, and there were a lot more of them."

Enunwa has flown under the radar with many college recruiters. In early October,

he picked up offers from both the Cougars and Huskers after catching a combined 21 passes for 256 yards and seven scores in his team's first four games.

He said he doesn't intend to make a final decision until all of his

college options are laid out on the table.

"I loved the fans at Nebraska and the atmosphere at the game," Enunwa said. "The 'Tunnel Walk' was awesome, too.



Even though I wasn't a player, people were still trying to give me high fives when I was walking through. With that said, I probably will look to make a decision sometime in the next month or two. I'd kind of like to wait to see what all happens at the end of my senior season."

A LASTING IMPRESSION

Though he has about 10 more scholarship offers since his early-September visit to Lincoln, Egg Harbor Township, N.J., athlete **TEJAY JOHNSON** (6-2, 190) reportedly still has the Huskers high on his list.

"He was so excited about that trip to Nebraska," Egg Harbor Township Head Coach **TONY DEROSA** said. "He loved the facilities, he loved coach (Bo) Pelini, he loved the players and he loved the atmosphere. He really did feel that it was a place that he could find a home at.

"I think Nebraska is definitely up there with him along with Rutgers, Cincinnati and Michigan State. He also has offers from Miami (Fla.), Tennessee, Minnesota and others. He's starting to narrow it all down."

NEBRASKA'S SCHEDULED VISIT LIST

NAME	POS.	HT	WT	DATE	COMMIT
Damon Williams	DT	6-4	300	11/21	California
Jay Guy	DT	6-1	300	11/7	
Austin Hill	WR	6-3	192	11/7	
Joshua Mitchell	DB	5-11	165	11/7	
Harold Mobley	ATH	6-4	225	11/7	
Tobi Okuyemi	DE	6-3	250	11/7	Nebraska
Tyler Slavin	WR	6-2	182	11/7	
Curtis Carter	ATH	5-10	161	10/17	
Quincy Enunwa	WR	6-2	200	10/17	
Andre Hal	DB	6-0	170	10/17	
Derron Smith	DB	5-11	173	10/17	Nebraska
Ciante Evans	DB	5-11	170	9/26	
Chase Harper	TE	6-6	248	9/26	
Joshua Reese	WR	6-1	182	9/26	
Chase Rome	DE	6-3	290	9/26	
Bud Sasser	WR	6-3	200	9/26	Nebraska
Bobby Swigert	WR	6-1	175	9/26	
Colin Tanigawa	OL	6-3	286	9/26	
Willis Wright	WR	6-2	185	9/26	
Harvey Jackson	DB	6-2	185	9/5	
Tejay Johnson	ATH	6-2	190	9/5	Nebraska
Mike Moudy	OL	6-7	291	9/5	
Donovan Vestal	DE	6-5	240	9/5	



IN STATE SPOTLIGHT

BY SEAN CALLAHAN

Crete offensive lineman **RYNE REEVES** is one of two commitments in the Huskers 2011 recruiting class. Huskers Illustrated caught up with Reeves in this week's in-state recruiting spotlight.

CALLAHAN: Who's your favorite offensive lineman?

REEVES: Probably (Minnesota Viking) Steve Hutchinson and I like Walter Jones from Seattle. Walter Jones is just really good. I like the way those guys play.

CALLAHAN: Linemen obviously eat a lot. What's the most you've ever eaten in one sitting?

REEVES: Last year after a track meet I had 10 double cheeseburgers at McDonald's. It was kind of a contest that me and a couple of my friends had. I took them all down with no problem.



CALLAHAN: What's it like having your dad as your offensive line coach at Crete High?

REEVES: It's all right. I don't ever really think of him as my dad when we are in practice. He knows a lot. It's good to learn from him. He kind of gets on me a little more than the other players, but that's about it.

CALLAHAN: How has life changed for you since you've become a Husker commit?

REEVES: I get cut blocked a lot on defense and sometimes even on offense, then after the games people always tell me good luck at UNL.

CALLAHAN: Facebook, MySpace or Twitter?

REEVES: Facebook. I'm on there, actually, quite a bit.

CALLAHAN: What's one show you don't miss on TV?

REEVES: I really like "The Office." That's probably my favorite show. It's just hilarious. I like everything about it. It's just funny.

CALLAHAN: Outside of sports, what's your favorite hobby or thing to do?

REEVES: During football season I like to hunt ducks on Sundays. We go up to Utica and hunt ducks. I hunt deer a little bit, too.

Recruiting Notebook

Curtis Carter rates trip a "10"

by Sean Stevens

WIDE RECEIVER target **CURTIS CARTER** (5-10, 161, 4 stars) of Stonewall, La. North Desoto High has been strongly considering Nebraska for his commitment since late summer but has yet to pull the trigger. His trip to Lincoln for the Texas Tech game certainly didn't hurt the Huskers' cause.

"It was an awesome trip. It was everything I expected it would be. The whole staff is nice, I met everybody; the fans are great. Oh man, it was a '10.' "

Carter possesses blazing speed, recording a 4.36-second 40-yard dash at LSU's 2008 football camp. The Huskers were the first school to offer, and he seemed ready to choose Nebraska this summer. But then some other schools caught his ear, and he began planning additional trips. That may be changing now.

"I have that one trip planned in December to Missouri, but I don't know if I'm going to hold off that long," Carter said. "I'm going to go out and think about making a decision. Maybe I'll see if I can squeeze in a trip real soon, because I really want to compare another visit to this one to see where Nebraska stands as of what I like."

Rivals' No. 204-ranked player at all positions, Carter is also considering Alabama

and Missouri. At least one potential NU teammate made an impression on him.

"**CODY GREEN** is the future," he said. "He can throw the rock."

VISIT OPENS SMITH'S EYES

Defensive back **DERRON SMITH** (5-11, 175, 3 stars) of Banning, Calif., came to Lincoln planning to be patient with his commitment decision. By the time the trip was over, he and his parents were considering a change of plans.

"It was great," Smith said. "I loved everything about it, and so did my parents."

While the facilities and academics caught his eye, Smith was most impressed with the Husker fans.

"There were people in red everywhere. I've never seen anything like it. I've been to other college games, but this was just an eye-opener. Husker fans are just great. I've never seen anything like it."

Despite the glowing reports, Smith won't decide quite yet.

"I mean, yeah, of course, I thought about (committing), but I want to take some more trips. I want to see Nevada on an official. I'm thinking of visiting Washington and Arizona State if they offer me. I want to visit Fresno State unofficially, and coach (Wayne) Moses from UCLA wants me to come to a game." **N**

SIDELINES



GABBERT STILL SEEING RED

Though he has listened to some recent overtures from Missouri, Ballwin, Mo., Parkway West High School quarterback (and Nebraska commit) **TYLER GABBERT** took some time during the Texas Tech contest to do some recruiting for the Cornhuskers.

"I talked to **CURTIS CARTER** about how his visit was going," Gabbert said. "We talked about the visit and what he's going to do. I think he's going to go home and take his time before he jumps on the bandwagon. He says he's liking Nebraska a lot but is going to go home and talk to his family."

Gabbert said he's looking forward to taking his official visit to Lincoln for the Huskers' game against Oklahoma on Nov. 7.

"Nebraska football is obviously everything in Nebraska," Gabbert said. "The visit was good. The game obviously didn't go the way everyone wanted it to, but the atmosphere at the beginning was crazy."

2010 Nebraska Commitment List (9)

Name (Rivals.com ranking)	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (School)
Walker Ashburn ★★★	DE	6-3	245	River Ridge, La. (John Curtis)
Ciante Evans ★★★	CB	5-11	170	Arlington, Texas (Juan Seguin)
Tyler Evans ★★	ATH	6-2	180	Waverly, Neb. (Waverly)
Tyler Gabbert ★★★★★	QB	6-0	190	Ballwin, Mo. (Parkway West)
Harvey Jackson ★★★	DB	6-2	185	Missouri City, Texas (Hightower)
Mike Moudy ★★★	OL	6-7	291	Castle Rock, Colo. (Douglas County)
Andrew Rodriguez ★★★★★	OT	6-6	300	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
Donovan Vestal ★★★	DE	6-5	240	Arlington, Texas (Bowie)
Chase Rome ★★★★★	DE	6-3	290	Columbia, Mo. (Rock Bridge)



DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

BY JOHN TALMAN
RECRUITING PUBLISHER,
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Case for top defensive players from Texas

I STARTED A two-part series last week looking at the top five all-time Huskers from Texas, beginning with the offense. This week, I'm going to go to the defense.

As was the case on the other side of the ball, there were some easy picks and then there were some guys on the list you wish you didn't have to leave out. Nonetheless, here are my top five Blackshirts who came to Lincoln from talent-rich Texas.

It's tough not to start with two dominating linebackers. The names shouldn't shock anyone. They are Houston Madison product and two-time All-American **BRODERICK THOMAS** and All-Big 12 and unassisted-tackle-in-a-season record-holder **DEMORRIO WILLIAMS**.

The "Sandman," the nickname Thomas brought with him to Nebraska, earned All-America honors in 1987 and 1988. He was a first-team All-Big Eight selection three years in a row. As a senior, he either led or tied for the team lead in seven defensive categories. He led the team for two consecutive seasons, 1987 and 1988, in total tackles. And in 1986, he was a sophomore All-American according to the Football News. Thomas did it from day one, playing in eight varsity games as a true freshman.

Williams was from Beckville, Texas, by way of Kilgore (Texas) Junior College, so what he did having just two seasons of eligibility in Lincoln was special. His first season at Nebraska, 2002, he played in all 14 games with 12 starts as the WILL linebacker. He led the team in tackles with 92. His senior year, he was the dominant

defender, leading the team in sacks, tackles for loss, quarterback hurries and fumble recoveries. His tackle total (128) was the fifth-highest for a single season in Husker history, and his 83 solo-tackles mark remains a Nebraska single-season record.

Staying with linebackers, including ones who picked up All-America honors, you have to talk about Pearland, Texas, product and former Husker Travis Hill.

Hill made my list not just because of the national honors or because of his first- and second-team all-conference honors as a senior and junior, respectively. You have to dig deeper with Hill seeing how many big games he helped the Huskers win, such as an 11-tackle performance against Oklahoma as a reserve linebacker in 1990. Or after nine tackles and two sacks, he broke up Kansas State quarterback Paul Watson's pass in the 1991 contest to help the Huskers hang on to a 38-31 win over the Wildcats.

In 1992, he had huge games against No. 2-ranked Washington (with a team-high 13 tackles) and a game-sealing quarterback sack against Missouri in Tommie Frazier's first start at quarterback for the Huskers.

Things got tough for me from here. I had quite the debate between All-America corner Keyuo Craver and defensive back-kick returner Joe Walker who is second all-time at Nebraska with 1,159 career kickoff return yards and eighth all-time in punt returns.

Walker, who was from Arlington, Texas, played in 12 games during the 1997 season as a true freshman for the Huskers' national title team. He tied Nebraska

and NCAA records for most career interception returns for touchdowns and kickoff, punt, and interception returns for touchdowns in one season.

I had to give the slightest of edges to Craver, however. The Harleton, Texas, native started for three consecutive years, 1999-2001. He played in every game since he got to campus as a true freshman in 1998. His 192 tackles are the most-ever by a Husker cornerback, and fourth most by a Nebraska defensive back all-time. He finished second only to another Husker All-America cornerback, Ralph Brown, with 41 pass break-ups.

With his triple jumping ability in track and field, Craver became the first Husker male athlete in 20 years to earn seven letters during his career.

Last, but certainly not least, I think the list is incomplete without another All-America defender – Crane, Texas, native Kenny Walker.

Overcoming deafness and smaller stature for a defensive end, he was one of the biggest stories of the 1990 college football season. Walker picked up All-America honors and was named the defensive player of the year in the Big Eight. Not to mention, he earned academic all-conference honors that same year. His head coach, Tom Osborne, called him the "greatest pass rusher in college football today." In that 1990 season he led the Huskers in tackles for loss, sacks and quarterback hurries.

Walker's 21 tackles for loss and 11 sacks in 1990 were the second-best single-season totals in Nebraska football history. **N**

Volleyball

KORI COOPER

BY BOB HAMAR

Huskers, Texas enjoy rivalry on both sides of net

Kori Cooper has mixed emotions about going back to Austin, Texas, to play the Texas Longhorns. "It's always fun to go back to Texas, any school in Texas," the Nebraska senior middle blocker from Amarillo, Texas, said. "I'm not sure how it's going to feel going to UT this year with what happened last year. We'll see."

The Huskers lost 3-1 at Texas last year. More importantly, Cooper blew out her knee during that match, missed the rest of the season and had to watch Nebraska's run to the NCAA Tournament semi-finals from the sidelines. Cooper spent the off-season rehabbing her knee and missed several matches early this season because of the injury.

But Cooper is nearly 100 percent now as the Huskers prepare for their Oct. 30 match in Austin. The NU-Texas series really has developed into the top rivalry in the Big 12 Conference.

"It's been a great rivalry," Cooper said. "We're looking to put up a really good fight at Texas. I think that rivalry has been going for a long time and will continue to go for a long time. It's a good, healthy rivalry."

Nebraska has won outright or shared 11 of the 13 Big 12 championships. The Huskers did



not lose a game from 2000 through 2003 with three straight perfect 20-0 records.

That's what Texas would like to do this season. The Longhorns have yet to win an outright Big 12 title but did share it with the Huskers the past two seasons.

This year, the Longhorns appear to be headed toward another Big 12 title and this one could be outright. Through Oct. 20, Texas was a perfect 14-0 overall and 9-0 in the Big 12 and had a two-match lead in the conference.

Texas senior rightside hitter Ashley Engle said she's enjoyed the rivalry with the Huskers.

"It's a friendly rivalry," Engle said after the Longhorns beat the Huskers 3-1 Sept. 26 at the NU Coliseum. "It's been wonderful. I'm very happy as a senior that I had at least one win (at the Coliseum), but we really respect their team. We respect what they do. They're a great team."

A win against Nebraska at home would go a long ways toward securing an outright Big 12 title.

Nebraska coach John Cook knows what his team is up against facing a Texas team he says might be the best team in the nation on the road.

Husker fans know all about high-flying Destinee Hooker, the NCAA high jump champion who doubles as one of the most intimidating outside hitters in the nation.

"Athletically they're as good as anybody we've ever played," Cook said. "They just have special athletes. Destinee Hooker is a track champion. Ashley Engle is a great player in that program who has started for four years. They're talented, they're loaded, they're motivated."

That being said, the Longhorns got a scare in their 25-22, 18-25, 25-17, 25-17 victory at the Coliseum. Texas had a hard time putting the Huskers away even

though NU had 34 hitting errors and 15 service errors.

"I think we scared the hell out of Texas," Cook said. "They changed their system now because they realized they're not as good as they thought they were."

The Huskers haven't won in Austin since 2006 when they survived a five-set marathon with a 15-13 win in the fifth set. That Husker team went on to win the national title.

"The only way to beat Texas is you're going to have to serve them and you're going to have to be able to sideout," Cook said. "You know you're going to do everything right and Hooker is still going to sideout. You have to come back and sideout."

STILL GETTING BETTER

Cook has said all season that the Huskers could get better and better as the season went along. That's not true every year. He said last year's team may have hit a peak earlier in the season.

"That's what I said in the beginning," Cook said. "I think this team has a chance to continue to improve throughout the whole season. Last year at this point we were maybe trying to maintain. This team can just continue to get better and better."

NO NCAA TOURNAMENT?

Nebraska goes to the NCAA Tournament every year.

You can just pencil the Huskers in for one of the 64 spots before the season even begins, right? Maybe not this year.

Nebraska's RPI rating was not that good midway through the Big 12 Conference season. The Huskers were 29th after losing back-to-back matches to Texas A&M and Texas in late September.

"I always wonder about that," Cook said when asked if he was worried about making the NCAA Tournament. "Especially with the way the conference

is right now. It's a tough conference.

"USC (on Oct. 20) is 2-5 in the PAC 10. They're still ranked (18th). Are they going to go? It could be the same thing in our conference. You could have a decent record, but if you're 10-10 in our conference you may not go."

NO BASEBALL FANS

Cook was asked if the Husker volleyball team was following the major league baseball playoffs with Hannah Werth's brother, Jayson, playing for the Philadelphia Phillies.

"Our team isn't into the baseball playoffs," Cook said. "They're all texting (Nebraska quarterback) Cody Green. They're tight with the freshmen football players." **N**

2009 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 22	Red/White Scrimmage, 7 p.m.
Aug. 28-29	Runza/AVCA Showcase
Aug. 28	*vs. Michigan, L, 3-0
Aug. 29	*vs. Minnesota, W, 3-2
Sept. 1	Creighton, W, 3-0
Sept. 4-5	at LSU Tournament
Sept. 4	vs. UL-Lafayette, W, 3-0
	at LSU, W, 3-2
Sept. 5	vs. Tulane, W, 3-0
Sept. 10-13	Ameritas Players Challenge
Sept. 10	Virginia, W, 3-0
Sept. 11	BYU, W, 3-1
Sept. 13	^UCLA, L, 3-2
Sept. 16	Texas Tech, W, 3-0
Sept. 19	at Colorado, W, 3-0
Sept. 23	at Texas A&M, L, 3-2
Sept. 30	at Oklahoma, W, 3-0
Oct. 7	Kansas, W, 3-0
Oct. 10	Kansas State, W, 3-0
Oct. 14	at Baylor, W, 3-0
Oct. 17	at Missouri, W, 3-1
Oct. 21	Iowa State, L, 3-2
Oct. 24	Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
Oct. 28	at Texas Tech, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 30	at Texas, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 4	Missouri, 7 p.m.
Nov. 7	at Iowa State, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 13	Texas A&M, 7 p.m.
Nov. 18	Baylor, 7 p.m.
Nov. 21	at Kansas, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 25	at Kansas State, 7 p.m.
Nov. 28	Colorado, 7 p.m.
Dec. 4-5	NCAA 1st/2nd Rounds, TBA
Dec. 11-12	*NCAA Regionals, TBA
Dec. 17	NCAA Semifinals, Finals
	* at Qwest Center, Omaha
	^ at Bob Devaney Sports Center

Basketball

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

Gallegos overcomes personal hardship

Brad Blanchfield first met Ray Gallegos when he coached him in AAU basketball. Gallegos was in eighth grade. He was struggling in school. His grade-point average hovered around a 1.0 — not surprising, given Gallegos admits he'd regularly cut class.

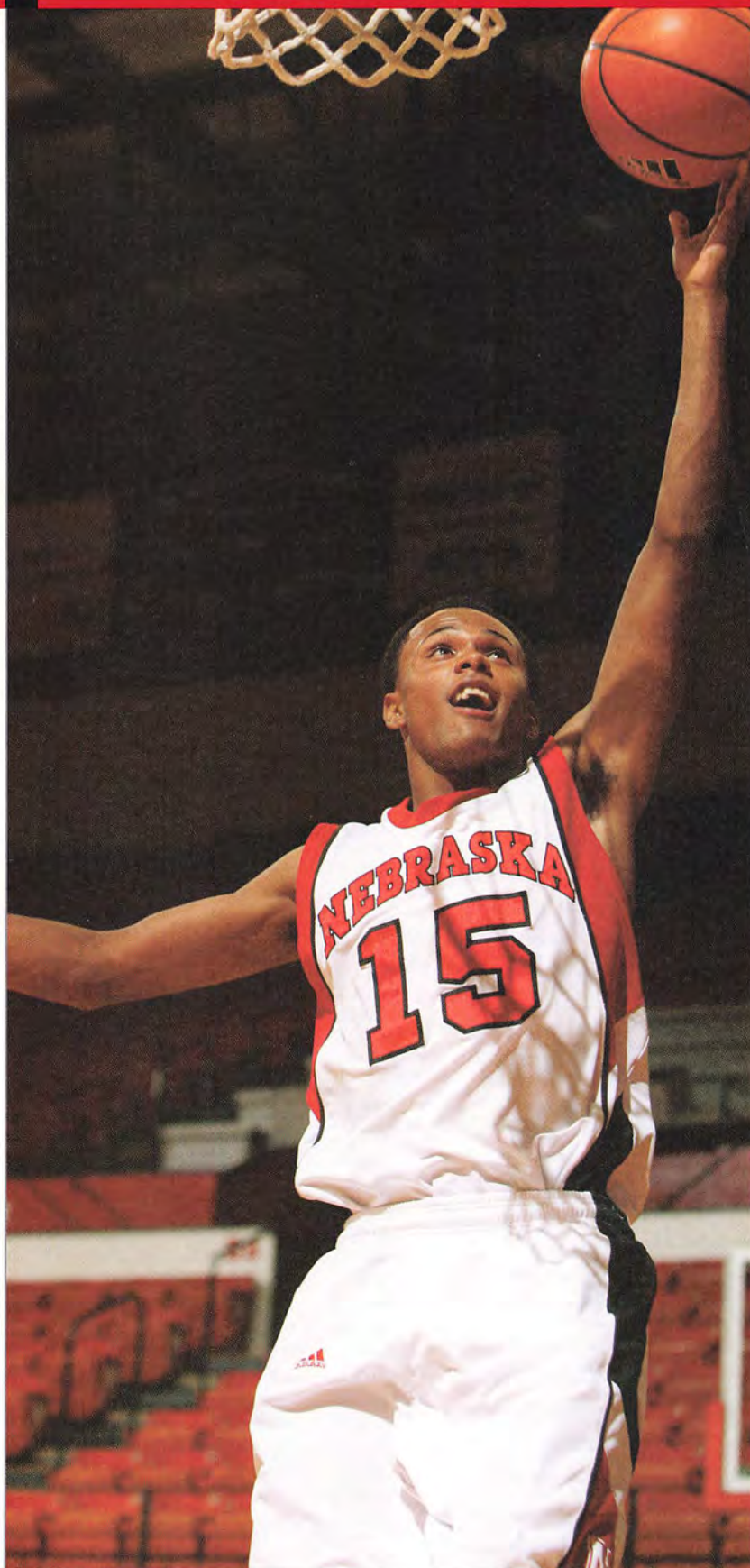
But skipping class was easy because Gallegos, who grew up in a one-parent household with his mother, faced no consequences when he did.

Seeing that lack of guidance in a young man's life bothered Blanchfield. He worried Gallegos would waste his promising basketball future if he didn't begin focusing on school. He also feared bigger problems might surface as Gallegos grew older.

Gallegos, who admitted he was "messed up" when he lived with his mother, took to heart a conversation he had with Blanchfield.

"He just talked to me," Gallegos said, "and was like, 'In order to play basketball, you have to go to school.'"

And going to school meant needing a more structured household. So after several discussions, Blanchfield and Gallegos



convinced Gallegos' mother, Maxine, to grant Blanchfield and his wife, Shannon, legal guardianship. (Gallegos said he's not seen his father since he was in sixth grade and isn't certain of his father's whereabouts today.)

"His mother knew that he needed help and was willing to let him do this," Blanchfield said. "It wasn't always easy. It's nice now because he's succeeded, but it was a long journey."

That journey led to a successful high school career for Gallegos and a scholarship on the Nebraska basketball team.

"He's just overcome all sorts of obstacles to get here," Blanchfield said. "He's a real success story, this kid."

Gallegos, who's from suburban Salt Lake City, said his living arrangement with the Blanchfields was originally to last only six months. But the initial results were so positive – his GPA immediately jumped to a 3.5 – that Gallegos asked to stay. He lived with the Blanchfields for four years.

"When I was with my mom, I had no rules, but when I went to Brad's house, it was all these rules and stuff," said Gallegos who lived only 5 minutes from his mother. "(The rules) helped me. Because now, when I'm on my own, I know what's good and what's not good."

Respect for others, Gallegos said, is what he learned the most after living with the Blanchfields, who had a son the same age as Gallegos. The two played basketball together for West Jordan High School and the Utah Pump-N-Run White AAU team.

"Basically," Gallegos said, "a little boy became a man after I lived there."

Blanchfield said Gallegos was treated like family, complete with chores and curfews. But Gallegos wasn't perfect. He said he'd try staying out a time or two past the 10:30 p.m. curfew on weekends.

"I didn't get caught," Gallegos said.

He also didn't break curfew repeatedly. Once or twice was enough.

"I had a guilty conscious. I could've kept doing it, but I decided to respect his rules."

When Nebraska coach Doc Sadler conducted an in-home recruiting visit, he visited the Blanchfields.

"Brad and Shannon took him under their wing and let him into their home," Sadler said, "and did a great job with him."

Gallegos arrived in Lincoln in June and worked out all summer and played pick-up basketball with his new teammates.

The 6-foot-2 Gallegos has been working in the weight room – he's added 10 pounds and now is listed at 175 pounds. On the court, he's comfortable playing either shooting guard or point guard; he averaged 16.7 points his senior season, leading West Jordan High School to a state championship.

"I think he's more of a scorer than point guard," Sadler said, "but that's not to say he can't play point guard."

Blanchfield, who coached Gallegos throughout high school in AAU, said Gallegos is a "flat-out scorer" who doesn't get rattled on the floor.

He'll have an impact, I think," Blanchfield said. "I really do."

GRIFFIN HONORED

Nebraska senior Kelsey Griffin was chosen as a pre-season All-Big 12

women's basketball selection by the league coaches for the third consecutive season.

Griffin, a 6-2 forward from Eagle River, Alaska, is the only member of the five-player All-Big 12 squad to earn three pre-season selections. The two-time, first-team All-Big 12 pick for the Huskers missed all of the 2008-09 season with a foot injury, after being named a pre-season selection for the second straight year.

Griffin is the No. 3 active career scorer in the league this season. She enters her senior season with 1,348 points. She's also the top career rebounder in the Big 12 entering this season, with 665 boards in her three seasons as a starter.

CENTER COMMITS

Andre Almeida, a 6-10, 320-pound center from Sao Paulo, Brazil, has given his oral commitment to Nebraska.

Almeida enters his sophomore season at Arizona Western Community College, where he averaged 13.7 points and eight rebounds as a freshman. He was named the Arizona Community College Athletic Conference player of the year, when he led the league in field goal percentage (70.5) and blocked shots per game (3.5).

Nebraska assistant coach Walter Roese recruited Almeida and coached him on the Brazilian Junior National Team. Almeida took an official visit to Lincoln the weekend of Sept. 26.

Almeida can sign a letter of intent during the week-long early signing period, which begins Nov. 11. Nebraska also has a commitment from Kenyon McNeaill, a high school point guard from Conway, Ark. **N**



ADAM BAILEY

BASEBALL Huskers return after being drafted

BY TOMMY DAHLK

Every summer, Nebraska baseball players face the question posed in the song by the Clash: "Should I stay or should I go?"

In 2007 and 2008, a majority of Husker underclassmen and recruits picked in the Major League Draft decided getting their professional baseball careers started sooner rather than later would be best. That fact contributed to the Huskers' unexpected last-place finish in the Big 12 in 2009.

This year, however, three out of the four Husker recruits who were drafted opted to play for the Huskers rather

than turn professional. Plus, the 2009 team's two underclassmen who were drafted, pitcher Mike Nesselth and outfielder Adam Bailey, decided to play one more season at Haymarket Park.

They talked with each other during the process and kept open minds about their decisions. They, of course, were tempted to get a jump-start on their pro careers. In fact, Bailey was drafted by his favorite team, the New York Yankees, in the 38th round.

But once he knew the asking price that would have gotten him to jump ship at Nebraska a year early wasn't going to be met, he said coming back to the Huskers would only be a good thing.

"They (the coaches) were really excited," Bailey said. "This can't hurt me in the long run."

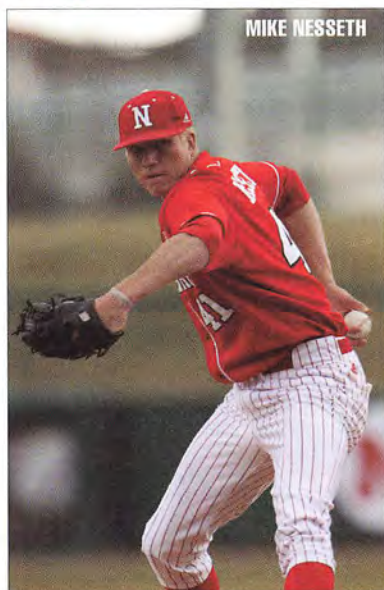
Bailey also looks forward to the chance to be a senior leader and improve his game from last year. Although he led the team in home runs (12) and runs-batted-in (50) during his first season in Lincoln following a transfer from South Mountain (Ariz.) Community College, Bailey said he knows he still has room for improvement.

"There were a lot of things I could have done better," he said. "I can play a lot better in bigger games."

Like Bailey, Nesseseth, whom the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim selected in the 15th round, said he had a certain amount of money he wanted in order to leave college and was totally content with coming back when Angels' offer fell short.

Plus, after last season's disappointing result, Nesseseth said it was a great opportunity to get another chance to leave a winner.

"Coming back was a plus," he said. "No one would want to leave that way." **N**



MIKE NESSETH

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED TEAMSTORE



Back



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FROM THE ARCHIVES

SINGING FOR A RECRUIT - **TONY JETER**, a 6-foot-3, 227-pound end, earned both All-America and Academic All-America recognition as a senior in 1965. Jeter started 33 consecutive games during his Cornhusker career. He led the team in pass receptions as a junior with 18 for 219 yards and tied for the lead as a sophomore in 1963 with nine for 151 yards and one touchdown, an indication of how the game has changed. Players went both ways in 1963, before NCAA substitution rules were changed to allow for two-platoon play. Jeter was a "great two-way player," coach **BOB DEVANEY** wrote in his 1981 autobiography. Devaney also recounted Jeter's recruitment out of Weirton, W.V. - Jeter remains Nebraska's only football letterman from West Virginia. Cornhusker assistant **JIM ROSS**, who had the main responsibility for recruiting the area, told Devaney that Jeter's mom played the organ for the choir at her church and that he, Devaney, should offer to sing some hymns with her during his home-recruiting visit. Devaney did. But, he wrote, "after one or two pieces, she'd had enough of my signing." Jeter's older brother, **BOBBY JETER**, was an All-American back at Iowa and played 11 seasons in the NFL, mostly with the Green Bay Packers. Tony played three NFL seasons with the Pittsburgh Steelers.



GAMES REMEMBERED

Nov. 17, 1956 • at Memorial Stadium



Nebraska and Baylor football teams had played each other four times before the advent of the Big 12 Conference. The Bears won only one of those games. And that has been their lone victory in the series. Pete Elliott was the Cornhuskers' coach, the only season he was at Nebraska.

Elliott's team was 4-4 going into the game. Baylor was 6-2, on the way to a 9-2 season that included a 13-7 victory against No. 2-ranked and previously undefeated Tennessee in the Sugar Bowl.

The Bears finished No. 11 in the final Associated Press rankings, released before the bowl games. Few, if any, at Memorial Stadium that afternoon would have disputed it.

Baylor featured guard Bill Glass, a consensus All-American, and Del Shofner, a 6-foot-3, 180-pound halfback who would be a first-round NFL draft pick and play 11 seasons with the Los Angeles Rams and New York Giants as a wide receiver and defensive back.

Shofner also excelled in track, running the 100-yard dash in 9.8 seconds and anchoring a quarter-mile relay that had the second-fastest time in the world. When the Cornhuskers tried to rally in the third quarter, after managing only 57 yards of offense in the first half, Shofner showed that speed and quieted the crowd with a 91-yard punt return for a touchdown.

Nebraska fullback Jerry Brown, a junior from Minden, Neb., carried 25 times for 100 yards, all but 44 of the Cornhuskers'

Baylor 26, Nebraska 7

Baylor	6	7	0	13	—	26
Nebraska	0	0	7	0	—	7

- (B) Bobby Jones 3 run (kick failed)
- (B) Del Shofner 17 run (Bobby Peters kick)
- (N) Willie Greenlaw 1 run (George Harshman kick)
- (B) Shofner 91 punt return (kick failed)
- (B) Peters 2 run (Art Beall kick)

Attendance: 31,775

rushing total. They managed only 54 yards passing. Shofner finished with 94 yards rushing on 13 carries.

PETE ELLIOTT (as reported in the Sunday Journal and Star): "I thought Baylor just outplayed us in the first half, but in the second half we came out and took the initiative and looked like we would go. It looked like we outplayed them in the third quarter."

DO YOU REMEMBER?

► Cigarettes were sold at Memorial Stadium (30 cents a pack). Lucky Strike had a full-page ad on the game program's back cover. Among the other items sold at the stadium: hotdogs (25 cents), popcorn in a cardboard megaphone (15 cents) cotton candy (10 cents).

► Baylor's athletic director was former Cornhusker All-American George Sauer, the Bears' head coach the previous six years. His record was 38-21-3.

► The Memorial Stadium crowd included "several high school aces," sports writer Don Bryant reported. Bryant was the sports editor of the Lincoln Star before his distinguished career as Nebraska's sports information director, which began in 1963.

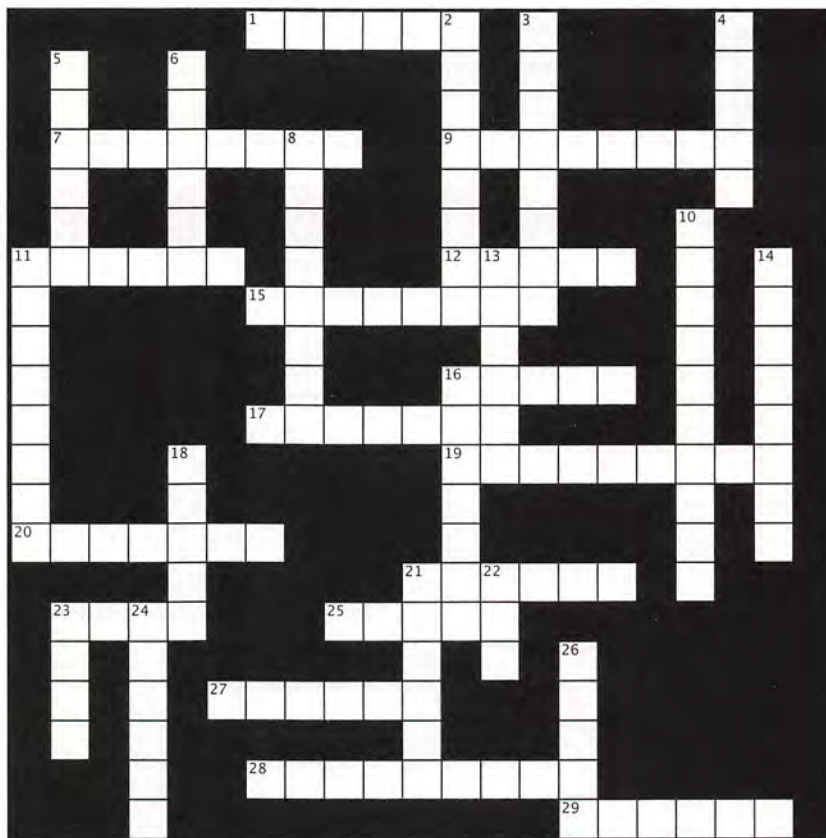
CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

ACROSS

1. 2001 Davey O'Brien Award winner
7. Nov. 7 opponent
9. Safety out for the season
11. Baylor head coach
12. Baylor school color
15. True freshman running back who played for first time vs. Texas Tech
16. Radio color commentator
17. Wide receivers coach
19. City for Big 12 Championship game
20. Leading tackler vs. Texas Tech
21. Ex-Husker defensive end now with Buffalo Bills
23. Baylor campus location
25. Baylor nickname
27. Network for NU-Baylor telecast
28. Bo Pelini's alma mater
29. Radio play-by-play voice

DOWN

2. Tom Osborne's alma mater
3. Fullback in Gill, Rozier, Fryar backfield
4. Had 2 sacks vs. Texas Tech
5. Scored NU's only touchdown vs. Texas Tech
6. Ex-Husker linebacker now with New Orleans Saints
8. Chris Brooks' home state
10. Former Baylor star now an NFL head coach
11. Running back injured week of Texas Tech game
13. 1983 Maxwell Award winner
14. Larry Asante's home state
16. 1995 Johnny Unitas Award winner
18. Quarterback out for the season
21. Nov. 14 opponent
22. Bo Pelini's previous school
23. Wears No. 5 (defense)
24. Offensive line coach
26. Wears No. 7 (defense)



Answers will appear in the Nov. 7 issue

HUSKERNUTZ



HUSKERNUT CHILDREN ARE CONSISTENTLY ABOVE AVERAGE WHEN IT COMES TO SCHOOL SUBJECTS LIKE GEOGRAPHY.

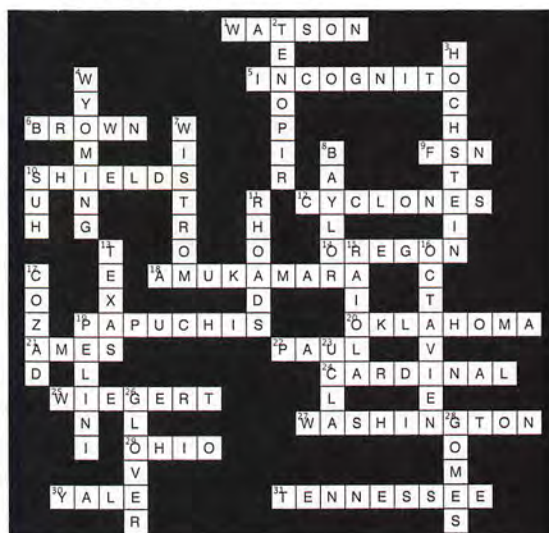
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OCT. 24 CROSSWORD SOLUTION





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

A game that defies description

WE NEED A LEAD HERE. So how about this?

The weather forecast was 60 degrees and sunny. But it was neither, figuratively as well as literally. The sun never came out, and the temperature never climbed as predicted. In fact, the temperature was 44 degrees at kickoff, and rain was falling as the final, painful minutes elapsed in Nebraska's 9-7 loss against Iowa State. The rain was hardly needed to dampen the crowd . . .

Doesn't work, does it? Too cosmic.

How about this?

Say it ain't so, Bo. Say the Cornhuskers didn't lose five-of-seven fumbles and throw three interceptions in losing to an Iowa State team without its No. 1 quarterback and No. 1 running back, a team with ill players, a program that hadn't won at Memorial Stadium since 1977.

Naw, that's going nowhere. Too obscure. Probably not many in an announced crowd of 85,938 (though there sure were a lot of empty seats high up in the student section at the south end) remember Shoeless Joe Jackson and the Black Sox scandal in 1919.

Let's try once more.

Not since 1955, when Hawaii came to Lincoln and defeated Nebraska 6-0, have Husker fans been so stunned, has something so unexpected occurred at Memorial Stadium.

OK, that might be a stretch, and still too historical. College football was different back then.

What can you say that makes any sense?

Ndamukong Suh tried. "It's just a bad hiccup to take, but it's something that

we've got to deal with, something we've got to move forward from," the senior defensive tackle said.

Suh was responding to a question about whether Nebraska's season goals remain intact.

"Yes, that's still the case," he said.

At this point, however, season goals shouldn't be a concern. At this point, winning the next game at Baylor should be the Huskers' only concern – repeat, the Huskers' only concern.

No need to hold one's breath (that's supposed to get rid of hiccups, right?) about winning the Big 12 North Division. No need to check on reservations for Arlington, Texas, and the conference championship game on Dec. 5. Not after back-to-back Big 12 losses at home.

The previous week's 31-10 loss against Texas Tech was difficult enough to fathom. Surely, the Huskers weren't going to be blindsided on consecutive Saturdays.

Surely, Iowa State would be good for what was ailing them.

"It's just a heartbreaking feeling," said junior Jared Crick, also a defensive tackle. "We've got to get back to work next week and keep pushing. That's all we know how to do.

"And that's exactly what we're going to do."

But what's the solution to eight turnovers? How does a team push through that?

"You've just got to roll with the punches," Suh said when asked about the frustration of having to go back on the field each time the offense turned over the ball. "You never know what's going

to happen, but you've got to learn to deal with it, at any point in time."

The game was reminiscent of 1992, when once-beaten and No. 7-ranked Nebraska traveled to Ames, Iowa, in mid-November and was upset by the Cyclones 19-10. Well, not exactly.

But there was a similar shock when the game ended.

Even as the rain fell and fans left the stadium, as the final seconds ticked off, you thought the Huskers would somehow manage to pull out the victory, however unlikely as that was.

"We all thought until the end of the game, until we realized the game was over, we thought we would come back," said junior tight end Mike McNeill. "We were down by two points."

Just two points. All Nebraska needed was three. It fumbled away a lot more than that.

Early in the fourth quarter, Suh blocked a 49-yard field goal attempt. Linebacker Sean Fisher picked up the ball and carried it to the Iowa State 35-yard line. The Huskers wouldn't even have needed a first down from that point to be in field goal range for Alex Henery. But three plays produced a net of minus-3 yards, and instead of attempting what might have been a winning field goal Henery punted.

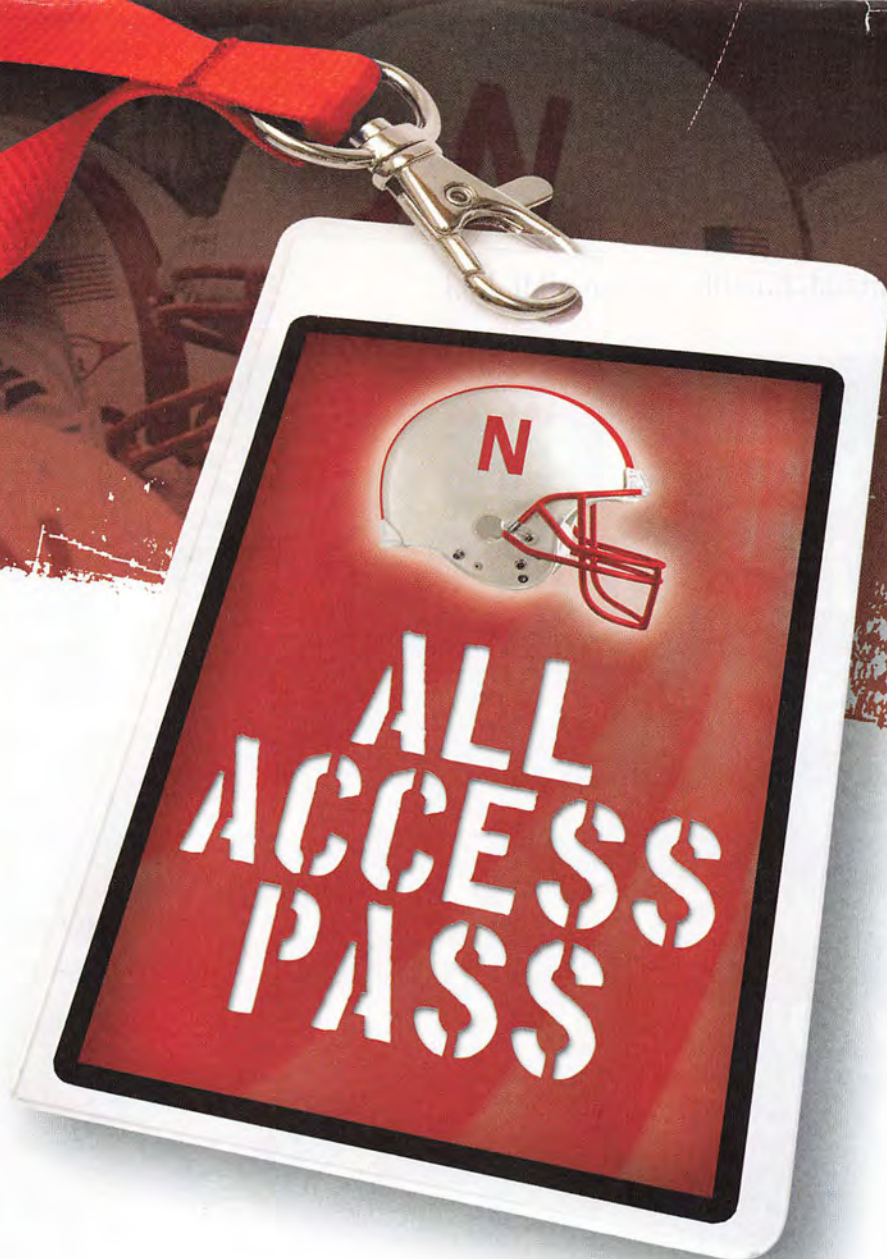
Nebraska had two more possessions, both of which ended with interceptions.

"We just beat ourselves," McNeill said. "I mean, it's tough."

How tough?

"You really can't put it into words," said Crick.

My point, exactly. It defied description. **N**



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Excitement's in the air
 The team is fully prepared
 All the hours of work invested
 People will be watching, oh they'll
 definitely be watching. And we are
 ready to take on all the challenges

2009 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time/Results
Sat, Sep 05	Florida Atlantic	Memorial Stadium	W, 49-3
Sat, Sep 12	Arkansas State	Memorial Stadium	W, 38-9
Sat, Sep 19	at Virginia Tech	at Blacksburg, VA	L, 15-16
Sat, Sep 26	Louisiana-Lafayette	Memorial Stadium	W, 55-0
Thu, Oct 08	at Missouri *	at Columbia, MO	W, 27-12
Sat, Oct 17	Texas Tech *	Memorial Stadium	L, 10-31
Sat, Oct 24	Iowa State *	Memorial Stadium	L, 7-9
Sat, Oct 31	at Baylor *	at Waco, TX	11:30 a.m., Versus
Sat, Nov 07	Oklahoma *	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov 14	at Kansas *	at Lawrence, KS	TBA
Sat, Nov 21	Kansas State *	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Fri, Nov 27	at Colorado *	at Boulder, CO	2:30 p.m., ABC
Sat, Dec 5	Big 12 Championship	Arlington, TX	7 p.m., ABC (Dallas Cowboys New Stadium)

* Conference games



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